

Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-064

CONTENTS

4 April 1988

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Underground Nuclear Test Carried Out	1
Submarines Reportedly Redeployed, Refitted [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 2 Apr]	1
Karpov Discusses Shevardnadze U.S. Visit	1
Reportage on Nuclear, Space Talks in Geneva	2
Commentary on Space 'Memorandum' [Zholkver]	2
U.S. Distorts ABM Accords	3
Obukhov on 'Clear-Cut Mission'	3
Treaty 'Can be Finalized' [Solton]	3
'Lawyers Against Nuclear War' Group Founded	3

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

Further Reportage on Sofia Pact Meeting	5
Ministers Brief Press [Sofia BTA]	5
Ministers Meet Women's Group [PRAVDA 29 Mar]	5
Shevardnadze Meets Soviet Aktiv	6
Mladenov Lauds Meeting	6
Pact 'Address' Answers NATO	6
Comparison on Close of Session	7
Maslyukov Attends CEMA Session in Sofia [PRAVDA 25 Mar]	7

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Kashlev: 'Certain Progress' Achieved in Vienna	8
Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' [Andrianov, Agayants, Kassits]	8

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

U.S. To Send Additional Troops to Panama	14
Reagan Signs Bill on 'Humanitarian' Contra Aid	14
Reagan Radio Address Stresses 'Basic Research'	14
Pentagon Awards Contract for Submarine System	14
Professor Calls on Pope To Appeal to Reagan	14

China

Debate on Draft Enterprise Law Described [IZVESTIYA 22 Mar]	15
---	----

Northeast Asia

Soviet Fleet Spotted in Japan Sea 4 Apr [KYODO]	16
DPRK Criticizes 'Team Spirit' Maneuvers [IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]	16
Outcome, Implications of Toshiba Trial Viewed [PRAVDA 28 Mar]	16
Takatori Inspection of Kuriles Criticized [Dmitriyev]	17

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Shevardnadze Visit to Afghanistan	18
Departs Moscow	18
Kabul Arrival Statement	18

Focus on 'Political Settlement'	18
Meets With Najibullah	19
Commentary on U.S., Pakistani Stands in Geneva	19
'Symmetry' Issue Denounced [Vavilov]	19
'Crude Interference' Noted [Kornilov]	20
Opposition Leader To Return to Afghanistan	21
Iraqi, Iranian Ministers Expected in Moscow [Kuwait KUNA]	21
Shultz Begins 'Another' Mideast Tour	21
Arrives in Israel	21
'Complications' in Saudi Ties	22
Israeli Trial, Nuclear Ambitions Decried	22
Gorbachev Receives Indian Envoy, Gandhi Message	22
Shevardnadze Receives Indian Minister	22
Gorbachev Speeches Published in Bangladesh	23

Sub-Saharan Africa

Reportage on Adamishin Visit to Angola	23
Received by President	23
Denies Secret UNITA Contacts	24
Prospects of Dos Santos-Savimbi Meeting Viewed [Grigoryev]	24
Telegram Exchange Marks Ties With Djibouti [IZVESTIYA 29 Mar]	24
Demichev Receives New Ghana Envoy's Credentials	24
CC Sends Greetings to Mali Party Congress	25
'Traditional' Cooperation Noted [PRAVDA 28 Mar]	25
Malians Receive Delegation [PRAVDA 28 Mar]	25
Broadcasting Protocol Signed With Madagascar [IZVESTIYA 27 Mar]	25

East Europe

CSSR's Husak To Visit Soviet Union 'Mid-April'	25
Poland's Jaruzelski Meets Kulikov, Gribkov [Warsaw Television]	25
Orzechowski on 'New Phase' in Relations	26

West Europe

Shultz Pays 2-Day Official Visit to Italy	26
Holds Talks With Leaders	26
Briefing Held	26
Newspapers View Visit	27
France's Mitterrand on Foreign, Domestic Policy	27

Latin America & Caribbean

U.S. Building Up Military Presence in Panama	28
Reasons Viewed	28
Panama Crisis Aids Latin American Consolidation	28

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political & Social

More on Azerbaijan, Armenian Situation	30
Sumgait Armed Workers Meet [Baku]	30
Commentary Views Events [(Organov)]	30
Need for Return To Work Stressed [IZVESTIYA 1 Apr]	31
'Barrier' Must Come Down [SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 1 Apr]	32
Workers Appeal for End to Strike	33
'Common Sense' Starts To Prevail	33
Western Press Reactions Viewed	34
Armenians Threaten Strikes [DPA]	34

Situation in Stepanakert	34
'Most' Stepanakert Workers Staying Out [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 3 Apr]	35
Stepanakert Strikes 'Still On' [AFP]	35
Protestors Demand Airikyan Release [AFP]	36
Weekly Rebuts 26 Mar Yerevan Reports [ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No 14]	36
Foreign Radios Inciting Unrest [PRAVDA 4 Apr]	36
Correction to Development Decision	40
Ukrainian Supreme Soviet To Hold Session 18 Apr [Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA 19 Mar] ..	40
Poltava Obkom Chief Assigned to New Duties	40
Interior Minister Relates Ministry Dismissals [Belgrade TANJUG]	40
Restructuring at Ministry of Internal Affairs	40
Personnel Cuts Envisaged in Uzbek, Kirghiz	41
Press Criticizes Former Official's Activities	41
Presidium Decree on Taxation Implemented	42
Mass Legalization of Books Demonstrates Glasnost	42
Turkmen Murderers' Sentencing Reported [PRAVDA 1 Apr]	43
Economic	
Katushev, Malkevich Address Commerce Congress	44
Minister Describes Power Supply Situation [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 19 Mar]	45
Scientific	
Space Official Comments on 'Mir' Mission	47
'Project Phobos' Mission to Mars Outlined	48
'Astron' Observatory 'Still Functioning'	48
Military	
General Yerminev Interviewed on Statutory Order [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Mar]	49
General Staff Officer on Impact of New Thinking [NEW TIMES No 8]	51

Underground Nuclear Test Carried Out
LD030250 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0235 GMT 3 Apr 88

["TASS Announcement"—TASS headline]

[Text] At 0535 Moscow time on 3 April 1988 at a test ground in the area of Semipalatinsk in the Soviet Union, an underground nuclear explosion of 20 to 150 kilotons was carried out.

The aforementioned test was made for purposes of further improving military equipment.

Submarines Reportedly Redeployed, Refitted
LD021112 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in
English 2 Apr 88 p 10

[Article by Daniel Johnson in Bonn and Dela Gooch, defence staff, entitled: "Russians 'Refitting Submarines To Fire Cruise Missiles'"]

[Text] Soviet Yankee Class submarines have been secretly redeployed away from their usual positions off the east coast of America to the Barents Sea in the Arctic, from where they can threaten Britain and other European states.

Experts believe they are being converted to carry intermediate-range cruise missiles in an attempt to compensate for the removal of land-based weapons under the INF agreement.

NATO commanders have considered deployment of cruise missiles on submarines, but have so far been wary of adopting any measure which could backfire politically, bringing accusations that they were breaking the spirit of the INF agreement.

The Soviet redeployment was disclosed by American naval intelligence in a report to a congressional committee.

It has been interpreted by Herr Siegfried Thielbeer, a West German military analyst, as an attempt to make up for the scrapping of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

The INF agreement signed last year by President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev, does not include submarine-based nuclear missiles.

The planned accord to halve strategic forces, which the two leaders will discuss at their Moscow summit in May, would involve sea-launched ICBMs, including those on Yankee Class submarines.

Naval experts in London believe that a refit programme is under way to convert some of the Soviet Union's 34 Yankee boats for intermediate cruise missiles, turning them into a "strategic 2nd XI".

The aging Yankee boats have been freed from their American duties by the Delta and Typhoon class which can hit American targets even from the security of Soviet waters and which are far quieter.

America was alerted to the redeployment when the Yankee submarines failed to materialise in their regular Western Atlantic patrol areas.

Their noisy engines made them easy to monitor and a sitting target for American antisubmarine forces.

There have also been grave doubts about their safety. One Yankee boat is known to have sunk some 500 miles off the coast of Bermuda after an explosion in October 1986. Other accidents are believed to have occurred.

Karpov Discusses Shevardnadze U.S. Visit
LD020910 Moscow TASS in English 0842 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—TASS diplomatic correspondent Vadim Biryukov writes:

"The visit to Washington by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze was undoubtedly useful as regards revealing the points of view of the two sides, analysing the situation that had taken shape, and determining main problems which still required solutions. But, unfortunately, there was no radical headway in the solution of these problems," Viktor Karpov, head of the directorate of arms limitation and disarmament issues of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in an interview with the TASS diplomatic correspondent.

This applies, first of all, to matters connected with the observance of the ABM Treaty. The accord reached on that score during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington in December has not been realized in a juridical form so far. "It has not been realized because the U.S. side has been evading this work all the time and virtually suggesting, instead of the accord reached in Washington to observe the ABM treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972, a certain understanding on replacing the ABM treaty with a new agreement allowing what the ABM Treaty bans", Viktor Karpov said.

In particular, at the meeting in March the U.S. side put forward a new idea of allowing work on sensors which can be used in ABM systems. "This is yet another attempt to legalize, as if through the 'backdoor', work under the American SDI program", Viktor Karpov said. "The question of sensors is not a simple one, though. Sensors are now used legally for space research. But the angle which was given to the problem by the U.S. side in Washington this time puts one on one's guard as yet another attempt at circumventing the ABM Treaty."

"As far as the contents of a treaty on a 50-per cent cut in strategic offensive arms are concerned," the Soviet expert said, "the sea-launched cruise missiles remain the

principal problem. The U.S. side does not want to discuss in earnest specific limitations and specific levels of these arms, pleading that a verification system is unclear."

At the latest meeting in Washington, however, the Soviet side suggested a verification system which is really comprehensive. It envisages both monitoring the production of sea-launched cruise missiles and the fitting them out with nuclear warheads; verification on board ships and submarines and by means of on-site inspections. "This is a really comprehensive system, and it is impossible simply to reject it without attentive study and thorough discussion".

"We suggested to the Americans to carry out a joint experiment in April in long-distance detection of nuclear weapons on board the ships," Viktor Karpov said. "To perform the experiment with our technology and in the presence of U.S. specialists who could see the technology with their own eyes, to touch it and see how it works. Do you think that we received a positive reply immediately? Not at all. They questioned the advisability of experiments and whether the equipment would work. We did not receive so far a consent to carrying out the experiment".

"One is put on one's guard not even by the fact that some or other problems remain unresolved but by the lack of a pronounced political will on the part of the U.S. side to tackle these matters", Viktor Karpov emphasized. "There is little time. It remains two months before the U.S. President will arrive in Moscow. But, if a political decision is taken in Washington, a draft treaty on a 50-per cent cut in strategic offensive arms can be prepared within this period provided the sides work intensively and persistently."

However, what is taking place now in Geneva in the work on the texts of documents does not give grounds for much optimism so far. Even in those cases when the differences found in the text reflect only the differences in linguistics, language, and wording, the American side very rarely agrees to removing the difference and to finding another wording which could be accepted by both sides.

Sometimes the question arises whether it will be possible to regard the U.S. President's visit to Moscow as a considerable event if a treaty on a 50-per cent in strategic offensive arms is not signed and whether such a meeting is necessary.

"I think the very accord on a specific date for the meeting", Viktor Karpov said in this connection, "already indicates that both sides attach much importance to it as yet another stage of the development of the Soviet-American dialogue which is not limited to issues concerning strategic arms or the observance of the ABM

Treaty but covers the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including humanitarian, economic and other relations between the two countries as well as regional and broader international problems."

Reportage on Nuclear, Space Talks in Geneva

Commentary on Space 'Memorandum'

LD012000 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1500 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] The USSR delegation at the Geneva disarmament conference has introduced a memorandum on setting up an international system to monitor the nondeployment in space of any weapons. Aleksandr Zholkver, our political observer, comments on this document:

[Zholkver] It is well known that one of the most important issues in resolving any disarmament problem is the matter of verification. It was because of complications with it that the Soviet-U.S. treaty scrapping medium- and shorter-range missiles was held up. Now the question of reducing strategic offensive weapons is moving to the forefront. It is inseparably linked to preventing an arms race in space.

In seeking to create a favorable atmosphere for this issue to be resolved, our country is proposing that an early start be made on drawing up a verification system in this very important field, which has an immediate bearing on the security of all states. After all, space is indivisible, and the deployment there of any weapons would threaten all mankind.

It is for this very reason that our country proposes setting up an international space inspectorate. Its inspectors would have right of access to any facility dealing with space shots. They could visit all launch pads and conduct agreed on inspections at appropriate industrial enterprises and laboratories, too. Naturally, all this would be on a reciprocal basis.

Of course, everyone realizes that this is quite a difficult matter. Some might even regard its solution as impossible. But let's face it, the no less difficult problem of allowing inspectors into missile works and bases in the United States and the USSR has been resolved. It was also possible to reach agreement on mutual visits to testing ranges where nuclear tests are carried out, and to facilities where chemical weapons are to be destroyed.

Of course, there are very influential quarters in the United States that, for whatever reason, are stubbornly opposed to relinquishing the idea of Star Wars. However, it is worthy of note that recently more and more U.S. academics—and now even politicians and servicemen—are coming to admit the illusory nature and danger of this idea.

The roots of the new political mentality are making headway on U.S. soil, too, though with difficulty. The sooner and more effectively the issues of verification are worked out for all aspects of disarmament, the more successful will be this process that is so important for mankind.

U.S. Distorts ABM Accords

*LD021239 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1030 GMT 2 Apr 88*

[Text] At the meetings held last week within the framework of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons, work continued on agreeing upon a draft treaty on a 50-percent reduction in the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and the United States. In the space weapons group, the sides began working out a joint draft for a future accord on issues of observing the ABM Treaty. Strict observance of the obligations established under that treaty is, as is well known, an essential prerequisite for implementing radical reductions in strategic offensive weapons. However, as before, the desire of the U.S. side to distort the essence of the accords reached in Washington last December remains an obstacle to successful work in this direction. So the U.S. delegation has again proposed that the accord in preparation should be called a "Treaty Between the United States and the USSR on Certain Measures Facilitating the Transition on the Basis of Cooperation to Deployment of a Future Strategic Defense Against Ballistic Missiles." From this alone, it is evident that the U.S. side has in mind an accord that would aim not at retaining the ABM Treaty, but at eroding and undermining it.

As for the Soviet side, it is acting in full accordance with the decisions recorded by the Soviet-U.S. joint statement of 10 December 1987. The Soviet Union's delegation has, in this connection, proposed the conclusion of separate bilateral agreements on observance of the ABM Treaty and not deviating from it for an agreed period of time.

Obukhov on 'Clear-Cut Mission'

*LD031241 Moscow World Service in English
1100 GMT 3 Apr 88*

[Text] The Soviet delegation at the Geneva talks with the United States has a clear-cut mission to fulfill: To draft a treaty on 50-percent reductions in the strategic offensive weapons of the two countries for the coming meeting between their leaders in Moscow. This was said by the head of the Soviet delegation Aleksey Obukov in a Radio Moscow interview. According to him, despite the progress made at the talks, there still remain quite notable difficulties. Among these, Aleksey Obukov singled out the issue of drafting an agreement on observing the ABM treaty in the form it was signed in 1972 and on not withdrawing from it within an agreed period. This, the Soviet spokesman said, is of paramount importance since 50 percent cuts in the strategic offensive weapons can be implemented only if the ABM treaty is observed.

The Soviet side, Aleksey Obukov stressed, is doing everything to fulfill its mission and prepare a draft treaty on strategic offensive weapons by President Reagan's arrival in Moscow in 2 months time. Yet, the head of the Soviet delegation concluded, not all depends on us.

Treaty 'Can be Finalized'

*LD041412 Moscow World Service in English
1100 GMT 4 Apr 88*

[Text] Will a strategic offensive arms reduction treaty be ready for signature when General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan meet in Moscow from 29 May to 2 June? Yuriy Solton comments and this is what he writes.

Moscow still believes that the treaty can be finalized during the 2 months left before the summit, although this is a difficult job to do. So far the strategic arms talks in Geneva are in a stalemate. The main reason for this is that the U.S. negotiators have departed from positions coordinated earlier at the highest level. The link between strategic offensive arms and defensive weapons is a major controversy. The Soviet delegation, in keeping with understanding achieved at the summit last December, has suggested signing a separate bilateral agreement on compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty for a definite term. Meanwhile, the Americans have suggested replacing the ABM Treaty with some other agreement that would allow what the ABM Treaty prohibits. This is an attempt to find loopholes, to legalize the work on the Strategic Defense Initiative, commonly known as Star Wars project.

The U.S. draft provides for what has been called certain measures promoting cooperation in the transfer to the deployment of a future strategic anti-ballistic missile defense. But strategic arms cuts are incompatible with an arms race in space. The Soviet Union cannot accept this duplicity so it is not chicanery but fundamentally different approaches to security that hamper progress at the Geneva negotiations. I believe political decisions are needed to break the deadlock. They can be made when the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, and the United States secretary of state, George Shultz, meet in Moscow late this month.

'Lawyers Against Nuclear War' Group Founded

*LD021306 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT
2 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—"To create a politico-legal model of a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world is the task not only of scholars of any one country or a group of countries. It presupposes cooperation between specialists of various countries and various scientific disciplines. The quicker this is done, the shorter will be the way to ensuring lasting and reliable peace and security," legal scholars V. Verechshetin and R. Mullerson write in today's PRAVDA in connection

with a constituent session of a new international organization, "Lawyers Against Nuclear War." The session is to be held in Stockholm at the beginning of April. It is also planned to work to overcome the threat by asserting everywhere legal principles in world politics.

"Arms reduction and disarmament are a major material condition for building a secure world in which law, not force, would prevail," the article says. "International law is as an indispensable means for consolidating the results of the disarmament negotiating process. However, the resources of international law are not limited to recording political accords in a legally binding form. The greatest possibilities of international law in this respect lie, perhaps, in the sphere of creating necessary guarantees of security both in the disarmament process and in a future nuclear-free world. The establishment of a comprehensive system of international security requires the formation of material, political-legal, moral and psychological guarantees of peace and security for everyone. International law has most direct bearing on the elaboration of such guarantees."

"The ensurance of universal security calls for the enhancement of the role and efficiency of the existing but in many respects inactive or insufficiently used mechanisms such as the United Nations Organization, the U.N. International Court, arbitration procedures, the institutions of military observers, the U.N. Armed Forces, and others. Active work to create new mechanisms and procedures is also required. For example, a considerable contribution to improving the international situation could be made by the realisation of the Soviet

proposals on creating under U.N. auspices a mechanism for large-scale international monitoring of compliance with agreements on relaxation of international tension and arms limitation, and of military situation in conflict-ridden areas. It is precisely in creating mechanisms and procedures necessary for the fulfilment of obligations assumed by the state that we see possibilities for considerably raising the effectiveness of international law."

"The matter is that the adoption of important politico-legal obligations has not been accompanied so far by the elaboration of due organizational guarantees which are to ensure the conversion of mutually agreed-upon rules of conduct into practical deeds. The insufficient development of the introduction and monitoring machinery is, perhaps, the main drawback of contemporary international law. Therefore, in a number of politically acute fields it often served so far as a means for mutual accusations of violating its principles and norms, and not as a real regulator of relationships between states."

"The treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which contains as supplements the procedures for both the very elimination of missile systems and verification of the fulfilment of obligations may serve as a big step and as an example for the future in this respect," the scholars emphasize.

"A major reserve in raising the efficiency of international law is to utilise to the full the potential of world public opinion, the activity of broad masses of people, and progressive public movements," the article points out.

Further Reportage on Sofia Pact Meeting

Ministers Brief Press

AU301514 Sofia BTA in English
1445 GMT 30 Mar 88

["Warsaw Treaty: No to Confrontation, Yes to Cooperation"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 30 (BTA)—The policy of the Warsaw Treaty member states reveals new prospects for stepping up progress on the road to complete disarmament. Their attitude to the international problems is constructive and not confrontational.

At a news conference attended by Mr Ivan Ganev, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, by Mr Vadim Loginov, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and by Mr Istvan Joszi, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Hungary, which was held here today in connection with the regular session of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states, it was pointed out that the main task of the session was to find the most direct road to making the process of actual disarmament irreversible and progressive.

The deputy ministers see the new in the present session of the committee in its clearly expressed realism and in its businesslike approach to the issues of restricting and limiting the armed forces and the conventional weapons from the Atlantic to the Urals. The Warsaw Treaty proposes to make public and to exchange data on the structure, the power and the position of all armed forces and conventional weapons according to geographical regions as well as according to separate countries which would stop the speculations of those who do not intend to disarm.

The proposal to start negotiations on the elimination of all tactical nuclear weapons in Europe and the striving to extend the confidence- and security-building measures to the air and naval forces of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries is also new. The foreign ministers of the allied states declared themselves not only for the further development of the confidence- and security-building measures elaborated by the Stockholm Conference and for their application in respect to the neighbouring regions, but also for the working out and adoption of qualitatively new measures for security and confidence in Europe.

Mr Vadim Loginov pointed out that the Soviet Union is hopeful about the chances of signing a treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive arms in the conditions of a continued observance of the ABM Treaty the way it was signed in 1972 and a nonwithdrawal from it for a specified period of time. There are no technical obstacles and, provided the good will is there, the treaty can be ready for signing by the time President Reagan visits Moscow, the deputy minister said.

In answer to a question it was specified that the observance of the ABM Treaty does not rule out theoretical and practical developments of weapons systems in laboratory conditions. The point is that components or entire weapons systems should not be deployed in outer space.

In connection with the situation relating to Afghanistan, an emphasis was laid on the artificial obstacles which Pakistan raises at its proximity talks with Afghanistan in Geneva and more specifically on the absurd suggestions for a linkage between the timetable for the withdrawal of the limited Soviet troop contingent from Afghanistan with the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan as a precondition. Back in January last year, President Najibullah of Afghanistan suggested to the opposition forces and the Afghans in exile to join in the negotiations about the formation of such a government.

At the news conference, the Warsaw Treaty countries reaffirmed their commitment to turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation and their full support for the initiatives to this end advanced by the Soviet party leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ministers Meet Women's Group

PM291145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting at the 'Boyana' Residence"]

[Text] Sofia, 28 Mar—BTA reports that foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact states had a meeting at the "Boyana" residence today with representatives of the international movement "Women for a Meaningful Summit."

The meeting was attended by Bulgarian Foreign Minister P. Mladenov, GDR Foreign Minister O. Fischer, Polish Foreign Minister M. Orzechowski, USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze, and CSSR Foreign Minister B. Chnoupek. Deputy Foreign Minister I. Joszi represented Hungary and Deputy Foreign Minister C. Oancea represented Romania. They have come here to participate in a session of the Warsaw Pact states' Foreign Ministers Committee.

On behalf of his colleagues P. Mladenov welcomed the guests and expressed satisfaction with this first event of its kind.

Margaret Papandreou, the movement's coordinator, spoke of the peace initiatives advanced by the movement, which are designed to help resolve problems of peace, security, and disarmament. She voiced confidence that the opening of a dialogue between women of East and West and the governments of the two military-political alliances will help to assert positive trends in the development of the international situation and to continue the process of real disarmament which has begun.

In the talks which took place the movement's members drew special attention to the urgent need for a radical reduction of nuclear arsenals, the cessation of nuclear tests, a total ban on chemical weapons, and a substantial reduction in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe. Ideas were voiced concerning ways to strengthen security and trust in East-West relations, including with regard to problems connected with imparting a defensive thrust to the military doctrines of the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The meeting participants showed interest in the initiatives advanced by M.S. Gorbachev during his visit to Yugoslavia aimed at turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

The foreign ministers explained the Warsaw Pact states' positions on the problems raised and emphasized their joint desire to assert a realistic new approach in international relations. It was pointed out that questions of concern to the movement's members will be touched on at the upcoming Foreign Ministers Committee session. Further efforts to impart an irreversible and ongoing nature to the disarmament process which has begun and to detente in East-West relations will be at the center of attention at that session.

Shevardnadze Meets Soviet Aktiv

LD302211 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 30 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Shevardnadze held a meeting today in the Soviet Embassy in the People's Republic of Bulgaria with the aktiv of Soviet establishments. At the assembly, a substantive and committed conversation was held on deepening and developing relations between the fraternal countries. A particularly thorough analysis was made of the work being carried out there to introduce new forms of cooperation under conditions of restructuring.

Mladenov Lauds Meeting

LD302228 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 30 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent D. Golanov video report from Sofia]

[Text] We have asked Comrade Mladenov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, to comment on the results of the committee meeting in Sofia:

[Begin Mladenov recording in Bulgarian with superimposed Russian translation] First of all, I would like to note the importance of this sitting of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the fraternal countries, which has been held at a special time for international relations, in an atmosphere bearing witness to the development of the new political thinking, and of the positive processes in Soviet-U.S. relations. It is a period in which the role played by the socialist countries in tackling international

problems is constantly growing. Fundamental documents were adopted in Sofia: addresses to the NATO member-states and to all the CSCE participants, as well as communiques expressing the socialist countries' stance on consolidating security in the world. [end recording]

Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee general secretary and Bulgarian State Council chairman, had a meeting today with the ministers of foreign affairs of the Warsaw Pact member states. The meeting passed off in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. [video shows interview with Mladenov; Zhivkov meeting Shevardnadze and others]

The texts of the joint communiques adopted in Sofia and of the addresses to the NATO member states and to all CSCE participant countries will be published in the press.

Pact 'Address' Answers NATO

LD011358 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—A TASS diplomatic correspondent writes:

"The address to NATO countries and to all countries, participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, adopted at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member states should, apparently, be viewed as a sort of answer to the final documents of the NATO session held recently in Brussels. And the aim of this answer is the quest for points of contact in the stands of the two blocs," military expert of the CPSU Central Committee, General Geli Batenin told a TASS correspondent today.

"The address outlines priority tasks—such as, for instance, the conclusion in the first half of 1988 of a treaty between the USSR and the USA on a 50 percent cut in strategic offensive arms, a general and complete ban on nuclear weapon tests, the conclusion in 1988 of the drafting of a convention to ban chemical weapons and eliminate their stockpiles, an early agreement at consultations of 23 countries in the framework of the Vienna meeting on a mandate of the talks on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, and on other matters. It is impossible to overlook the fact that these and other priority tasks apply to the most explosive zone of the world for the concentration of armaments and armed forces, Europe," General Batenin said. "Hence it is understandable that the Warsaw Treaty countries pay special importance to the normalisation of the situation in the world."

The address shows clearly that the Warsaw Treaty countries are prepared to resolve problems in a political way, to conduct bilateral and multilateral dialogues and, ultimately, call for renunciation of the concepts of

nuclear deterrence in pursuing an important aim, that of creating a climate of goodneighbourliness in Europe and in other areas of the world where the interests of the Warsaw Treaty countries and NATO clash, General Batenin said in conclusion.

Comparison on Close of Session

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 1 April carries in its Morning Edition on page 4 a TASS report on the conclusion of the Sofia Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers session under the general heading "Session Over." The IZVESTIYA report has been compared with the Moscow TASS version published in the 31 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 5, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph one, sentence one, IZVESTIYA reads: ...Foreign Ministers' Committee has ended its session here. The meeting was... (supplying "has," omitting "today")

Paragraph six, only sentence, IZVESTIYA reads: ...Cooperation in Europe, which is published separately.

On the same... (picking up paragraph seven, supplying clause)

Paragraph seven, only sentence, IZVESTIYA reads ...Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers.

The meeting was held in a friendly, cordial atmosphere.

A luncheon was given in honor of the participants in the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee session. (IZVESTIYA report concludes, supplying two sentences).

Maslyukov Attends CEMA Session in Sofia

PM291343 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 88
First Edition p 7

[TASS report: "CEMA Committee Session Held"]

[Text] Sofia, 24 Mar—The 41st session of the CEMA Committee for Cooperation in the Sphere of Planning was held in Sofia 22-24 March.

Taking part in it were leaders of the CEMA member countries' central planning organs. The Soviet delegation was headed by Yu.D. Maslyukov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan.

A representative of Yugoslavia also took part in the session in accordance with an agreement between CEMA and the SFRY. S. Ovcharov, Bulgaria's representative on the CEMA planning cooperation committee, chaired the session.

The committee examined and presented to the CEMA Executive Committee a draft collective concept for the International Socialist Division of Labor for 1991-2005 devised to implement the resolution of the extraordinary 43d meeting of the CEMA session.

During the discussion of the concept, the strategic goals of the further improvement of cooperation, the development of socialist economic integration, and measures to deepen and expand collaboration among the CEMA members in the most important sectors of the national economy were defined. This applies primarily to machine building and the electronics industry, the production of the most important construction materials, raw materials, and basic products, to satisfying demand for fuel and energy resources, the production and exchange of foodstuffs and consumer goods, transport and communications, and the development of the non-production sphere and social services. The draft concept also outlines the main directions of the restructuring of the CEMA members' cooperation mechanism.

The committee examined draft long-term programs for multilateral production-sharing and specialization for the period through 2000 in the sphere of machine building, radio engineering, electronics, and the chemical industry. There was also a discussion of draft programs for the coordination of national economic plans for 1991-1995 and of the list of economic cooperation problems which are being coordinated on a multilateral basis for the current 5-year plan and the longer term.

The committee formulated and submitted to the CEMA Executive Committee draft special comprehensive programs for multilateral cooperation between the European CEMA members and the SRV, Cuba, and Mongolia, in which measures to deepen scientific-technical, production-economic, and trade ties were defined aimed at resolving those countries' most urgent socioeconomic problems and broadening their participation in the international division of labor.

During the committee's work, there were meetings between Bulgarian party and state leaders and representatives from the CEMA committee member countries. They discussed long-term economic cooperation between Bulgaria and the other CEMA members.

Kashlev: 'Certain Progress' Achieved in Vienna

LD011709 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—"The light at the end of the tunnel is already visible at the Vienna meeting of representatives of the states participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe," Ambassador Yuriy Kashlev told a TASS diplomatic correspondent today.

Commenting on the recently completed round of the meeting now in its 54th week, the head of the Soviet delegation noted that more than half of the final document, including in part related to military issues, had been tentatively endorsed.

"All groups of countries, Warsaw Treaty, NATO and neutral ones, reached understanding on the resumption this year of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe."

The first stage of the conference was held in Stockholm in 1984-1986.

"Not all questions related to the conference have been agreed upon," said the Soviet representative. "We insist that it discuss both confidence-building measures and problems of disarmament in general, while the NATO countries want it to consider only a new set of confidence-building measures.

"We suggest that it be recorded already now that confidence-building measures shall spread to the activity of air forces and navies in seas adjoining Europe.

"The Western countries, however, are against recording that now."

Certain progress had been achieved in what concerned economic issues, Kashlev said. "The forum is discussing questions of holding an economic forum in Prague. A scientific forum in Italy, an economic East-West conference in the Federal Republic and an ecological forum, presumably in Bulgaria.

"The situation with the 'third basket', humanitarian issues, is so far difficult. Positions are not different on all points. But several ideas are currently being discussed concerning the convocation of all-European humanitarian functions following the Vienna meeting.

"The recent days saw a new idea of holding a conference on the human dimensions of the all-European process. It is proposed to have it in three stages: the first, in Paris in 1989, the second, probably in Copenhagen, and the third, in Moscow in 1991.

"The Soviet side will shape its attitude to the idea depending on the agenda of the conference. The Soviet proposal provides for a conference that would discuss a whole complex of human rights and humanitarian cooperation."

Speaking about prospects of completing the Vienna meeting, Kashlev said: "The prevailing mood of its participants is to wind it up next summer, better in July."

As to the consultations of the 23 on working out a mandate for the new talks on reducing armed forces and conventional armaments from the Atlantic to the Urals, conducted simultaneously in the Austrian capital, the Soviet diplomat said, "One would like to see greater advancement."

"The socialist countries attach great importance to these consultations, since the removal of historically established asymmetries and imbalances on the basis of reciprocity would contribute to improving substantially the situation in Europe.

"In addition to the text of the mandate on goals of the future talks, the sides have adopted a section on verification. It says that these measures will be subject to strict and effective verification, that the sides will exchange sufficiently detailed information to compare the potentials of corresponding armed services and armaments and that verification will include on-site inspections without the right of refusal," Kashlev said.

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'

LD032012 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1130 GMT 3 Apr 88

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Boris Andrianov, All-Union Radio foreign political commentator; Nikolay Ivanovich Agayants, international affairs correspondent; and Vadim Borisovich Kassis, editor-in-chief of GOLOS RODINY and OTCHIZNA]

[Text] [Andrianov] Hello, comrades. Here to take part in our roundtable meeting today are the international affairs journalist Nikolay Ivanovich Agayants and the editor-in-chief of the newspaper GOLOS RODINY and the magazine OTCHIZNA, Vadim Borisovich Kassis.

The unity and cooperation of the socialist states has been and remains the determining and most reliable factor for peace and security on our planet. Of special importance today is the common struggle of socialist countries for their shared aims in the international arena and close coordination of their foreign policy efforts. This has once again been reflected and confirmed in the work of the Warsaw Pact member states' Committee of Foreign Ministers, which held its latest meeting on 29 and 30 March in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia. That meeting provides indisputable evidence that the historic mission

of socialism, democracy, and progress consists in reinforcing existing realities and creating new ones which will become an insurmountable obstacle to the forces of aggression and intervention.

[Agayants] It should be noted that in the conduct of their practical affairs in the world arena, the Soviet Union and the other countries of our community are strictly guided by Lenin's principle of peaceful coexistence, the main task of their foreign policy being to preserve and strengthen peace on earth and first to reduce, and then to abolish altogether, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. But if reason is to prevail over unreason, and peace triumph, we need the mobilization and cohesion of all peace-loving forces, their purposeful and persistent struggle against the danger of war. This is precisely the aim of the new peace initiatives put forward by the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact countries in Sofia.

[Kassis] The committee examined at its session a wide range of international and, above all, European problems. It discussed priority tasks in further developing and strengthening the positive trends in the present international situation. While noting that, by and large, the situation on the European Continent of our planet remains rather complex and contradictory, the ministers also emphasized the urgent need to advance the process of disarmament and of creating a nuclear-free, nonviolent world.

[Andrianov] It is now of the utmost importance—and this was especially emphasized in the communique adopted on the results of the session of the Warsaw Pact member states' Committee of Foreign Ministers—I repeat, then, that it's especially important at the present time that all countries should refrain from any actions that could make the positive process which has begun in the sphere of disarmament more difficult. The Sofia session adopted an appeal to the NATO member states and to all the participant countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. This is a serious document, and one which has been received with interest by the public of Western Europe. I say without exaggeration that the specific and precise proposals of the socialist countries correspond to the hopes and aspirations of millions of people of goodwill, regardless of where they live and whatever may be the views they hold.

[Agayants] I am convinced that the clear precision and concreteness of the peace initiatives of the socialist states has aroused such interest in the West. The participants of the session in Sofia are offering a realistic program for creating a healthier international situation; they have even specified dates for the measures they are proposing. The program is relevant both to the European Continent and to global problems. Let us take just a few examples. Today, the possibility is opening up for Europe of achieving lasting security by substantially reducing

armed forces and conventional armaments; by eliminating the potential of both sides—that is, of the Warsaw Pact and NATO—for sudden attack; and by ridding the continent entirely of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Taking this possibility as their premise, the socialist countries are putting forward the following as the tasks to which priority must be given:

The treaty between the USSR and the United States on eliminating intermediate- and shorter range missiles must come into force and be implemented.

A Soviet-U.S. treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive arms and an agreement on strict observance of the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and on nonwithdrawal from it for an agreed period must be concluded in the first half of this year, the intention being that this should happen during President Reagan's visit to Moscow.

[Kassis] I would add to that the proposal for a total and universal ban on nuclear weapons testing, and the completion before the end of this year of work on the drawing up of a convention to outlaw chemical weapons and eliminate stockpiles of them. Or, say, the proposal that a mandate should be agreed on as soon as possible at the consultations in the framework of the Vienna meeting of the CSCE participant states, for negotiations on reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Urals to the Atlantic; and that those negotiations should begin no later than this year, 1988.

These are all proposals of the greatest importance, and there is no doubt that if the tasks indicated in them were to be resolved, this would help to create a healthier situation in Europe in the future and would lead to a significant lowering of the military threat and to a strengthening of trust and development of all-around cooperation not just on the European Continent but throughout the world.

[Andrianov] Apart from the proposals we have already mentioned in connection with the foreign ministers' appeal to the NATO member states and to all CSCE participant countries, there are two others in our package of peace initiatives that I would like to say something about. Judging by the reactions of the press, radio, and television in various countries, they are today arousing a very lively interest and attracting enormous attention on the part of the international public. These are, above all, the proposed establishment of a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans and in central and northern Europe; the proposal to reduce armaments and enhance trust in central Europe; the creation of a nuclear-free corridor and zone of trust, and the lowering of the level of armament along the dividing line between the Warsaw and North Atlantic blocs; and the suggestion that we should begin the process of limiting military activity and lowering the level of military confrontation in northern and southern Europe, and of turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation.

[Agayants] Another thing it is appropriate to mention, I think, at this point, is that if accords along the lines of the proposals put forward by our countries are to be achieved and successfully implemented, then special importance is attached to glasnost and predictability in the military sphere; exchange of necessary information; and creation of a stringent system for monitoring and verifying [kontrol i proverka] the obligations undertaken by the sides. It needs to be especially emphasized that, in the process of disarmament and arms reduction, the arms in question must not be replaced by others—which is what some people in the West are thinking of doing. A reliable barrier must be erected in the path of all who have ideas about acquiring new weapons or developing the arms race in other directions.

[Kassis] Another very important element to which attention should be drawn is this: In Sofia, the foreign ministers of the socialist states once again advocated the simultaneous disbandment of the NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, with the abolition of their military organizations as the first step. The purpose of this would be to overcome at last the division of Europe into opposing military blocs and to make a start on building a common European home in which to establish an atmosphere of good-neighborliness and trust.

[Andrianov] At the session in Sofia, the foreign ministers of our community also examined issues concerning the hotbeds of tension and conflict which exist in the world. They laid stress on the need to achieve political settlements in these regions as quickly as possible, and reaffirmed their determination to work vigorously to that end. Specifically, they exchanged views in connection with the talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan that are in progress in Geneva.

[Agayants] The ministers stated their position clearly: They are in favor of completing the talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan as soon as possible, and they urge the signing of documents that will comprise a political settlement of the conflict and of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. This would make it possible for the withdrawal of Soviet troops to begin.

[Kassis] The signing of an agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan settling the situation surrounding Afghanistan had been expected by 15 March. And, as Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev had said, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan could have begun 2 months from that date. But we are into the beginning of April, and as yet there is still no sign of any breakthrough at the indirect talks in Geneva to be seen. Why is this? Let me begin by quoting official statements. Pakistani President Ziaul Haq said recently: If the Afghan rebels are defeated, Pakistan will be the next target. The president went on to say: These people are not only fighting for their own freedom but also defending my country. The conclusion is obvious: He must go all out to help the dushmans, and be in no hurry to sign an agreement in Geneva but rather put spokes in the

wheel at every session. This was the mission entrusted to Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani [title as heard]. He is trying to shift the blame for the lack of progress at the talks onto the Afghan side, by asserting that positive decisions at the Geneva talks depend entirely on Kabul.

[Andrianov] It goes without saying that Pakistan's position has, from the word go, been directed morally and backed up materially by the kind uncles from Washington. You have only to take as an example the latest concept, of so-called symmetry, according to which the Soviet Union must discontinue its military aid to the Afghan Government simultaneously with the cessation of U.S. military aid to the Afghan armed opposition—either discontinue it altogether, or for some agreed period—a sort of moratorium idea, as it were.

[Agayants] Previously, of course, the U.S. side had not been talking about any kind of symmetry at all. Nor is there any mention of it in the draft documents prepared at the Geneva talks. Frankly, you could say that there is symmetry between Soviet military aid to Afghanistan and U.S. military aid to Pakistan, but they don't put the matter in that way. But I feel we ought to get back to the Geneva talks. At a recent press conference, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdull Wakil indicated unambiguously to the journalists assembled in the Palais des Nations what the main obstacles are to developing the talks. Above all, he strongly criticized the concept of symmetry. He also emphasized that the question of a future coalition government for Afghanistan concerns only the Afghans themselves and cannot be discussed in Washington, Moscow, or Geneva. As far as aid to Afghanistan is concerned, the minister pointed out that the aid from the Soviet Union arises out of long-standing treaty relations between two sovereign states, whereas the United States is giving aid to groups of Afghan terrorists.

[Kassis] I would like to say also that another, in my view highly significant, factor has emerged. Before the present round of talks began, an accord had been reached between Kabul and Islamabad not to raise any new matters during this round which would go beyond the framework of the content of the agreements already prepared for signing. Yes, that figures. Otherwise, it would be a question not of working on the final draft and putting on the finishing touches but of continuing fruitless discussions and getting sidetracked from the aim they had set themselves. And there can be only one aim: to stop the bloodshed on Afghan soil and settle the regional conflict.

[Agayants] Let me remark that the Soviet Union has not remained indifferent to the hitch that has occurred at the Geneva talks. At the session of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU which was held on 31 March, it was noted that the U.S. side had, in effect, retreated from its previously stated willingness to take part in a political settlement of the situation surrounding

Afghanistan based on the Geneva agreements. It was to take this into account, that we examined our possible alternative courses of action in this matter.

[Andrianov] Let us hope, all the same, for a favorable outcome of the talks. But look what has been happening in recent days far beyond the confines of Geneva. Let us turn to the press. THE GUARDIAN newspaper reports, for example, that the U.S. Government is sending new arms to the dushmans valued at \$300 million. THE GUARDIAN comments that this is a step which poses a serious threat to the Geneva talks on a peaceful settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

[Agayants] Well, and it is natural to ask, what is the so-called Peshawar Seven up to meanwhile? In answering this question, we ought to remind our listeners first of all that some of the antigovernment groups had begun their struggle for power even before the April Revolution of 1978; and that from 1985 they had organized their Alliance of Seven, with its headquarters at Peshawar in Pakistan. The most implacable of them is Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. He is the leader of the largest, and quite well-organized, group of cut-throats, the Hezb-e Islami.

[Kassis] According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, this—I quote—cunning man who enjoys plotting has had links with the CIA going back to the late sixties. His idee fixe today is to ride on a white horse into the former residence of the Afghan kings. His bandits get a considerable part of the foreign aid. The first U.S. Stinger missiles, for instance, found their way into his hands. In addition, he enjoys the patronage of Pakistan's president.

[Agayants] Well, and all this naturally arouses the jealousy, to put it mildly, of the other dushman leaders, and leads to constant internal squabbles, feuds, and discord. In the hope of somehow mitigating the clashes in the Alliance of Seven, the decision was recently taken to elect Hikmatyar as leader of the alliance for a term of 3 months—but to call him simply its official spokesman. It is hardly likely, however, that this will reconcile the bandits from the different clans. Each of them dreams of making good himself, rather than thinking of the needs of his fellow citizens; each has on his mind the need to continue his struggle for power, and the last thing he is concerned about is stopping the bloodshed.

[Kassis] I would like to draw attention to another recent development; namely, the interview that President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan gave to a correspondent of the giant Japanese television company, NHK. He said it was necessary to separate the problem of setting up an interim government in Afghanistan from the range of issues being examined at the Geneva talks. The president took his argument even further by declaring that he would like the current round of the talks to be the last: that there is now, it would seem, a possibility of signing the documents.

[Andrianov] In other words, evidently even Islamabad is beginning to realize that the U.S. strategists and Afghanistan specialists have shown an excess of zeal in their moves aimed, if not at actually wrecking the talks, then at least at drawing them out.

[Agayants] Sober-minded observers rightly note that at the Geneva talks, Afghanistan has made many compromises. But those compromises, and reconciliation, both within the country and between countries, cannot be a one-way street. I want to return to what we began with: the session of the Warsaw Pact Committee of Foreign Ministers, which reaffirmed the position of our states on the issues of achieving a comprehensive settlement and bringing lasting peace in the Near East.

[Andrianov] Yes, among the most acute of the regional conflicts is the Arab-Israeli conflict. This week the international public has had opportunity to have this brought home to it once again. After all, not even Tel Aviv dares any longer to describe what is now happening in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands as a campaign of civil disobedience. How could one so describe the powerful protest movement of the Palestinians against the hated regime of the Israeli invaders, when both in essence and in form, it has the character of a definite uprising?

[Agayants] It began, you remember, on 9 December of last year. So next week, it will be 4 months. For 4 months, the action by the local Palestinian population will have been going on unabated. Far from dying down, it has, on the contrary, been increasing and expanding. Who would venture to say how long these selfless actions by the Palestinians—who have resolved to cast off the yoke of repression that the invaders have imposed upon them—will go on? The Palestinian Arabs are no longer willing to tolerate this regime, under which they have no rights, and which, according to the design of the rulers in Tel Aviv, was to have existed forever on the conquered territories.

[Kassis] That is exactly how the Zionist authorities in Israel were still thinking quite recently, about their property in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is certainly not for nothing that in just over 20 years of occupation, they have already confiscated from the Arab population more than half of the 60,000 square meters of occupied territory. On these assimilated lands, the Israeli authorities have built 192 militarized settlements. Thus it is plain to see that Tel Aviv's policy is imbued with the desire to drive out the Arab population from its own land.

[Agayants] It is against that policy that the cutting-edge of the uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is aimed. A new impetus has been given to that uprising by the actions of the Palestinians this week. They took place, as you know, on 30 March, Land Day. It is marked each year as a sign of solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian patriots who died 12 years ago at the hands of Israeli punitive squads. The big demonstrations on

Land Day showed the indomitable strength of the popular uprising, which vividly confirms how groundless are Tel Aviv's hopes of undivided rule over the occupied territories.

[Andrianov] The events of the last few days have indeed shown the truly indomitable strength of the uprising of the Palestinian population. What draconian measures have the rulers of Tel Aviv not resorted to in their bid to quell the intensity of the protests and subdue the Palestinian rebels? The Israeli authorities closed the bridges over the Jordan River. They forbade the local inhabitants to travel. They refused to let journalists into the occupied lands, so as to stop the flow of news from the regions affected by the uprising. Moreover, the Zionists have today declared these regions a closed military zone. By doing this, Tel Aviv has in effect admitted that Israel is carrying out military operations there against the local population.

[Kassis] The Israeli invaders are clearly striving to conceal from the world public the truth about what they are up to on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip. But still, information is leaking out from those areas and becoming extremely widely known. In the past few days of this week alone, thousands of Palestinians have been arrested. All prisons and concentration camps in Israel and the occupied territories are overcrowded, and the invaders are now feverishly expanding their detention facilities. Since the uprising began, the occupiers have already set up two new concentration camps, and 17 Palestinian schools on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip have been turned into prisons. There have been a whole number of cases in which the Israelis have released criminals from prison to make room for political prisoners.

[Andrianov] I would add a few figures about the Israeli military's bloody reprisals to that list of mass repressions—figures announced by the PLO mission in the Jordanian capital. It has published a list of the victims of Israeli terror in the occupied Arab lands. The list contains the names of 200 Palestinians who have perished since the uprising began. Thirty-six of them were 15-years old or younger; that is, children, whom the oppressors are not sparing either.

Among the Israeli occupiers' victims are 27 women and young girls, the smallest of which, a 2-month-old baby, died from asphyxiating gas. The majority of those who have perished died from bullet wounds and brutal beatings.

[Kassis] So there you are: The Israeli military carries on with its fanatical cruelty, and the Tel Aviv leaders pronounce new threats against the Palestinians who have rebelled. One can imagine what lies behind these threats—above all, the intention of continuing the gross and insolent flouting of human rights in the occupied lands. Suffice it to say that Israel's imposition of a total blockade of the occupied territories—the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip—can be regarded as

nothing other than a very serious flouting of basic human rights and freedoms. So you might think that something ought to be said on the subject by those figures in Washington who pose as champions of these rights and freedoms in other countries.

[Andrianov] They are already saying things. At first the Washington figures expressed regret over what is happening in the lands invaded by Israel. Admittedly, it was not totally clear with whom they were sympathizing, the oppressed Palestinians or the Israeli repressors. But now things have been made perfectly clear in this regard. Richard Schifter, assistant to the U.S. secretary of state on human rights and humanitarian affairs, literally stated the following to one of the committees of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress: Israel not only has the right but also the duty to preserve and restore order in the occupied territories, using force insofar as is necessary to achieve this objective. As you can see, this specialist in philanthropy, without any pangs of conscience, justifies the behavior of the Israeli authorities, who are attempting to crush the Palestinian uprising by bloody repressions.

[Agayants] Incidentally, it ought to be noted that is by no means the only such statement by official spokesmen of the Reagan administration, and they have aroused a dramatically negative reaction, above all in the Arab world. There is a special ministerial-level delegation from the Arab countries in the UN Headquarters in New York at the moment. It is there to take part in the UN Security Council debate on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. On the instructions of that delegation, Clovis Maksud, the permanent observer of the Arab League at the United Nations, expressed the Arab world's profound indignation over the official U.S. stance on the Palestinian people's uprising and the orgy of repressions by the Israeli occupiers. Speaking at a press conference, the Arab figure stated that Washington's official stance and the public pronouncements of high-ranking spokesmen of the administration, including Secretary of State Shultz, can only be regarded as approval and encouragement for Israel's repressive actions, which are of unprecedented cruelty, barbarity, and inhumanity. The official U.S. policy is one of indulgence toward Tel Aviv. It gives the Israeli authorities the impression that they can do anything they like with impunity, and it encourages even more brutal repressions.

[Kassis] The mass protest by the Palestinian population, the barbaric methods used to suppress them, and various international initiatives aimed at deblocking the Near East crisis have once again put the Near East region in the forefront of world politics and rendered the issue of the state of and prospects for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict more acute. The events in the Near East demand that the world community urgently intervene to adopt measures for a cardinal improvement of the regional situation. The one genuine way to achieve this is to

convene, under UN auspices, a fully authoritative international conference with the participation of all sides concerned, including the PLO and the permanent members of the Security Council.

[Agayants] But here is what is becoming more and more evident now: There are fundamental contradictions, above all, between the approach of the Arab countries and that of the United States to the key issues of a Near East settlement. After all, if we look into the essence of what are called the new U.S. initiatives on the Near East, it becomes clear that in the main these come down to attempts to, as they say, reheat a dish that has long gone cold, by which is meant the main components of the Camp David deal. After all, the separate form of settlement is only a partial method and thus cannot be a prescription. Time has shown that by following it, they are not curing the disease but merely trying to drive it inside temporarily.

[Andrianov] I do not think it is so hard to establish the criteria for evaluating any Near East initiative. It is merely necessary to take into account in real terms to what extent these initiatives promote reaching a just settlement on the basis of a balance of interests of all sides involved in the conflict, and it is precisely this foundation-laying element that is absent from the plan being put forward by the United States under the name of the Shultz Plan. This plan is inconsistent. It stresses provisional measures and steps. In theory, the Soviet Union has no objection to them, but these measures and

steps, as is already clear now to many, could have a positive outcome only in the context of a comprehensive settlement linked to the convocation of an international conference.

[Kassis] Such an international conference on the Near East should be a forum with full rights and authority and in no way be a ceremonial cover, as it is imagined by certain people in Washington. Therefore, in no way should doubt be cast on the aims of the conference, which lie in discussing the mechanism and structure for a lasting and fair settlement providing for Israeli departure from the occupied territories and for the guarantee of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

[Agayants] Meeting Alessandro Natta, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev this week noted that the most varied multi-lateral and bilateral talks could take place within the framework of an international conference on the Near East. However, genuine settlement is unattainable without a just solution to the Palestinian problem and participation of representatives of the Palestinian people. Within the framework of preparing to hold the conference, said Comrade Gorbachev, a way will be found also toward renewing normal relations between the USSR and Israel.

[Andrianov] On that we bring our meeting at the roundtable to a close. All those taking part thank you, esteemed listeners, for your attention. Goodbye, and all the very best.

United States & Canada

U.S. To Send Additional Troops to Panama

LD020628 Moscow TASS in English 0620 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 2 TASS—TASS correspondent A. Lazarev reports:

The United States is to send a new big military contingent to the Panama Canal Zone. This became known to the ABC TV Network from sources in the Pentagon. The aggregate strength of the contingent will be approximately 1,300, including the crews of a helicopter company.

President Reagan took a decision to this effect in the morning of April 1 following a National Security Council session held earlier in the week. ABC pointed out that this stratagem by Washington was aimed at putting additional pressure on General Manuel Noriega, commander-in-chief of the National Defence Forces of Panama.

Reagan's latest anti-Panamanian action will bring the strength of military police and support forces alone in that country up to approximately 2,400. This will be four times as many as the strength of the contingent which was in Panama when the crisis began in February.

Besides, the amphibious ship Okinawa with about 700 Marines and a helicopter strike group on board is still staying at the military base in the Panama Canal zone.

Reagan Signs Bill on 'Humanitarian' Contra Aid

LD011624 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—President Ronald Reagan today signed the bill, already approved by U.S. Congress, on resuming so-called humanitarian aid to Nicaraguan contras.

The Senate approved the draft law on Thursday by 88 votes against seven, the House of Representatives approved it on Wednesday by 345 votes against 70.

The contra rebels will receive 17.7 million dollars.

Reagan Radio Address Stresses 'Basic Research'

LD022000 Moscow TASS in English 1947 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 2 TASS—President Reagan made a new radio address today in which he made the main emphasis on the importance of basic research. As an example he cited research in the field of lasers that was started with government sponsorship. Noting that lasers have received widespread use in the past thirty

years in areas ranging from microsurgery to the transmission of immense volumes of information, the President said that they "may contribute" to the Strategic Defense Initiative aimed at creating a large-scale ABM system with elements of space basing.

He said work will begin this year on the "great-grand-child" of the first particle accelerators—a superconducting super collider. "We'll also continue developing the space station. When it's in orbit, the space station will let us perform once impossible experiments in the weightless and sterile environment of outer space". The head of the administration mentioned the development of technology "to allow man eventually to journey beyond earth's orbit".

He also said research will be continued along the most promising directions of biotechnology which promise a revolution in medicine, agriculture and protection of the environment. In recent years alone 14 engineering research centres were set up for basic research in the field of new technologies and it is intended to set up another 10-15 new science and technology centres to engage in basic research in fields of general science. "All of these centers will work with industry so that what they discover can quickly lead to new and better and internationally competitive products", the President stressed.

At the same time President Reagan mentioned the difficulties of financing basic research because of the present "budget constraints" and urged Congress to allocate more money for these purposes.

Pentagon Awards Contract for Submarine System

LD011134 Moscow TASS in English 1106 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS—TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko reports: The Pentagon gave the "General Electric" company a large contract to develop components of a complex homing system for the newest "Sea Wolf" type of submarines. According to a UPI report, the contract is worth 945 million U.S. dollars. The "General Electric" is to develop by the year 1995 a fully computerised system of sonars to take torpedoes and rockets with which the new submarine will be equipped, to their targets.

The IBM, "Martin Marietta," "Singer Company" and the Californian firm "Computer Sciences" will also share in the contract. According to UPI data, the development of the system controlling the weaponry of the would-be sub would be worth one and a half billion U.S. dollars.

Professor Calls on Pope To Appeal to Reagan

LD260208 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—Prof Aleksandr Bykhovskiy, doctor of medical sciences, has sent a personal letter to Pope John Paul II requesting that in one of his encyclicals he address an appeal to U.S. President Reagan for a halt to nuclear tests. [passage omitted]

"All people—both believers and nonbelievers—want to live. The cataclysm of universal nuclear war runs counter in an equal degree both to the common sense of atheists and religious doctrine. Gorbachev is a nonbeliever, but he set a moratorium on nuclear tests and advanced the concept of a nuclear-free world. Reagan is a believer, but he is counting on a continuation of nuclear tests and the arms race, putting his trust in force." [passage omitted] "Does it not seem appropriate to you, the pope, to appeal to Reagan—a religious man—to halt nuclear tests? Such an appeal is completely in accordance with your high office and the hopes with which believers look to you," the professor concludes.

Aleksandr Bykhovskiy has frequently written to the pope. In answer to one of his letters, signed by the deputy state secretary of the Vatican, it was pointed out that efforts directed against the use of nuclear weapons will be continued in the future as well. "It would be very desirable," Prof Bykhovskiy stresses, "if the pope condemned militarism not from political but from moral positions."

China

Debate on Draft Enterprise Law Described

PM251001 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 88
Morning Edition p 5

[Dispatch by own correspondent Yu. Savenkov under the rubric "China. Reform Steps": "Difficult Quest for Efficiency"]

[Text] Beijing—At the end of this week a session of the National People's Congress [NPC] will examine a draft law on the enterprise owned by all the people.

For about 10 years now China, in the course of practical experimentation and theoretical research, has been seeking the forms of a new economic system which would be compatible with a socialist planned market economy and would make it possible to display its advantage to the full. The experience now accumulated in this field—the result of many years of searching, thinking, and debate—has been reflected in a draft law in compliance with which the enterprises owned by all the people—the foundations of the Chinese economy—should operate. This law should also encourage other legislative acts designed to animate the activity of enterprises. Above all, the law on bankruptcy, which, with amendments introduced after long and stormy debates, was adopted only experimentally. Its entry into force has been made dependent on the passing of the law on the enterprise owned by all the people—that is what the legislators have decided.

The law on the enterprise was first submitted for the NPC's examination in 1985. The new draft appeared in accordance with the line of the 13th CPC Congress held last fall. Also taken into consideration were the results of the discussion of the draft by broad public circles. The

draft emphasizes that according to the differentiation, which is now being effected between the right of ownership and economic management, the enterprise has the right to own and use property or even sell it in accordance with legal procedure. The management organs headed by a director bear full responsibility for the enterprise before the law. The director is responsible not only for production and management but also for training, instructing, and placing cadres. The director can be appointed or elected by competition or at a meeting of the labor collective. The draft defines the role of the enterprise party committees which should guarantee the implementation of party and state policy and support the authority of the director, vested with the legal right of responsibility for the enterprise. The draft allows enterprises to use a more flexible system of remuneration: In addition to distribution according to labor, awards to the contractor and lessee are possible, as is the obtaining of dividends at a joint-stock enterprise.

In a discussion organized by the newspaper RENMIN RIBAO, economic theorists stressed that the enterprise owned by all the people should, as a legal entity, have the same real rights as other enterprises. Otherwise the principle of differentiating between rights of ownership and economic management enshrined in the draft will be formal only and enterprises owned by the entire people will lose out in terms of efficiency and competitiveness to collective and private enterprises.

Last week members of the NPC Standing Committee examined the latest version of the draft law on the enterprise owned by all the people and heard a report from Song Rufeng, vice chairman of the NPC Legislative Affairs Commission, who summed up the 2-month nationwide discussion of the draft.

The general conclusion was that the majority agrees that this bill will promote the development of economic reform inasmuch as it touches on key problems facing enterprises owned by the entire people—the foundation of the national economy. As a CHINA DAILY correspondent noted, "sources close to the NPC believe that the draft bill will most likely be adopted at the session for experimental implementation, although it is still contradictory."

Opinions were particularly divided on the party's role at the enterprise, although no one is casting doubt on it. Some people believe that the party's role should not be stipulated inasmuch as the director is fully responsible for administration. Others believe that the party control precisely enshrined in the law attests to the socialist nature of the enterprise. Specialists point to the need to define the director's duties more clearly. At the same time many directors believe that the draft stipulates their duties too strictly while simultaneously limiting their rights and advantages.

The draft was also criticized for failing to reflect fully the idea of the development of the socialist commodity economy and failing to set adequate limitations on state planning.

One of the last changes made to the draft was the proposal to grant enterprises the right to hold talks and conclude agreements with their foreign partners in accordance with the PRC State Council circular. Lawyers believe there should be a more precise definition of "what is an intrusion into the interests of the enterprise and what kind of mechanism there should be for defense against the violation of their interests."

The members of the Standing Committee also said that the rights of enterprises and administrative departments should be more precisely differentiated when enterprises are opened in regions inhabited by national minorities whose interests should be taken into account.

All these questions should be examined and approved at the forthcoming NPC session.

Northeast Asia

Soviet Fleet Spotted in Japan Sea 4 Apr

OW041249 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT
4 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo April 4 KYODO—A Soviet fleet of six warships led by the aircraft carrier Novosibirsk was spotted cruising north in the Japan Sea some 200 to 300 kilometers off Wajima, Ishikawa Prefecture early Monday, the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) reported. An MP6 class missile supply ship thought to be carrying SSN5 antisea and antigrround attack nuclear missiles, was also among the fleet that moved to waters some 80 kilometers north of Iki Island, Shimane Prefecture, by noon, MSDF said.

The Soviet fleet is understood to be countering the Team Spirit'88 joint U.S.-South Korea military drill now under way on the eastern coast of South Korea, it said. It was the first time since last August that the 37,100-ton Novosibirsk belonging to the Soviet Pacific Fleet has been confirmed operating near Japan, MSDF said.

DPRK Criticizes 'Team Spirit' Maneuvers

PM311455 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 88
Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Lukashin dispatch: "DPRK: Resolute Condemnation"]

[Text] Pyongyang—The Government and people of the DPRK resolutely condemn the joint U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit-88" maneuvers as a criminal act directed against peace in Korea and its peaceful unification and as a serious threat to peace in Asia, reads a DPRK Foreign Ministry statement disseminated by KCNA 23 March.

This document totally rejects the attempts of Washington and Seoul to justify their aggressive preparations by referring to the supposed "threat of attack from the North."

The whole world knows of the DPRK Government's constructive steps aimed at easing tension and resolving the problem of Korea's unification as quickly as possible. Pyongyang's initiatives include proposals to end the arms race, reduce arms, conclude a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States, draw up a declaration of nonaggression between North and South, turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone, and convene a joint North-South conference. The DPRK was the first to show goodwill last December and reduced its army by 100,000 men. However, the Seoul authorities responded to all these initiatives with a buildup of military might.

More than 200,000 servicemen, nuclear-armed aircraft and ships, and a large quantity of other combat hardware have been mobilized in the present "Team Spirit-88" maneuvers, the DPRK Foreign Ministry statement points out.

"The provocative new action planned by Washington and Seoul is a direct challenge to DPRK sovereignty," Hero of the DPRK Senior Colonel (Kim Song-Chin), a veteran of the fighting against the U.S. occupation forces, told IZVESTIYA's correspondent. "We must be prepared for anything unexpected and bring ourselves up to full mobilization readiness."

Rallies in support of measures aimed at strengthening the country's defense capability are presently being held in military units and in worker and student collectives in the DPRK.

Outcome, Implications of Toshiba Trial Viewed

PM291429 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 88
Second Edition p 6

[Dispatch by own correspondent I. Latyshev under the "Repercussions of Events: Facts and Rumors" rubric: "The Toshiba Affair Once Again"]

[Text] Tokyo, March—The so-called Toshiba Kikai affair, which has been under examination in the Tokyo district court in past months, is over. This essentially provocative "case" amounted to the management of the major Japanese machine building firm Toshiba Kikai being absurdly charged, at Washington's bidding, with causing "damage to the defense capability" of the United States and Japan through the "illegal" sale to the Soviet Union of grinding machines, which, it is claimed, were used at Soviet ship building enterprises to produce silent screw propellers for submarines.

On the basis of information obtained from the Pentagon and other U.S. sources the firm's management was charged with breaching Cocom regulations banning

"Western bloc" countries from exporting "strategic" goods or, more precisely, products connected with radio electronics, computers, and other high technology, to the USSR and other socialist countries.

The foolish nature of the U.S. fabrications became absolutely plain during the court examination. Faced with incontrovertible facts, not only Japanese investigative bodies but also certain representatives of the U.S. military leadership had to acknowledge that Soviet submarine propellers did not require Toshiba Kikai technology. However, the Japanese judges failed to bring in an acquittal. That, after all, would have threatened an open clash between them and U.S. congressmen and the administration there, which in the last year has heaped on Toshiba Kikai slanderous charges and fabrications whose true aim is to inflame the situation, foment spy mania, and discourage Japanese and West European firms from selling any technical innovations to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. The Tokyo district court's decision was delivered with an eye on Washington.

Seeking to butter up U.S. congressmen, the judges delivered a judgment which found the Toshiba Kikai managers "guilty." True, not of causing damage to the defense capability of the "Western allies," as initially demanded by the prosecutor's office organs, but of breaching individual articles of the law on foreign trade control and of giving "wrong information" to officials of the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry. The "guilt" of the firm's administration is, according to the vague statement made by the president of the court, Toshio Yonezawa, that it, by its actions, "caused damage to the country's diplomacy and economic policy."

The sentence imposed a fine of ¥2 million on the company (a paltry sum, given the company's capital and income) and suspended prison sentences on two of its senior executives—a 1-year and 10-month term. However token the sentence, it does demonstrate the Japanese authorities' obsequious readiness to go along with Washington's demands, contrary to common sense.

The stance adopted by Toshiba Kikai during the trial is noteworthy. Its management had no intention of contesting the judgment. Its restraint has its own logic: "Why provoke the American geese [reference to Krylov fable] and complicate relations with Washington?!" As it is, the U.S. Administration is imposing more and more new economic sanctions forbidding the import into the country of a number of goods produced not only by the affected firm but its parent company, Toshiba, too. Japanese diplomacy, which is seeking to settle the conflict as quickly as possible, is clearly guided by the same logic.

However, the unfriendly thrust of the Tokyo district court's judgment aimed at supporting Cocom policy is noteworthy. Revealing its implication, AKAHATA, the central organ of the Japan Communist Party, writes: "By

its sentence the court has pandered to the Japanese Government, which is pursuing a policy of blind obedience to U.S. strategic aims."

Such a politicized judgment has given the bourgeois press grounds for expressing its skepticism about the present course of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry which, in order to please the United States, has introduced additional restrictions on Japan's trade with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. As a result of this policy, MAINICHI, for example, writes, exports of Japanese machine tools to communist countries in 1987 fell by 64 percent compared with the previous year while West European countries, which are also restricted under Cocom rules, considerably increased their sales of similar goods to those countries. It is no wonder that ASAHI counsels against curtailing trade with the countries of the socialist world and advocates its expansion in furtherance of Japan's economic interests and the strengthening of a "spirit conducive to easing East-West tension."

Takatori Inspection of Kuriles Criticized

*OW291439 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT
27 Mar '88*

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] According to KYODO, Osamu Takatori, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, visited Hokkaido to see the Kurile Islands, which belong to the Soviet Union. Our commentator Dmitriyev comments:

It is said that the Kurile Islands can be seen clearly from an observation platform at Nosappu Point. The Soviet Union and Japan are separated by a narrow strait at this point, making visitors realize anew that the two countries are close to each other.

It is a fact that Hokkaido residents are interested in developing good-neighborly relations and reciprocal economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. They have traditionally been developing such relations. The Japanese ruling circles, however, are using Hokkaido to artificially fan enmity against and distrust of the Soviet Union. Visits to Hokkaido for the so-called purpose of inspecting the northern territories have become a tradition among Japanese Government officials. Through such visits, Japanese Government leaders want to demonstrate to people across the country their nostalgic feelings for a place where second-generation Soviet people reside at present. Thus, the Japanese Government is stirring up a territorial campaign against the USSR.

As is known, the Japanese Government regards the Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and Etorofu islands as Japanese territory, claiming that an overwhelming majority of the Japanese people think that they are. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union considers those islands Soviet territory. The Soviet position is based on an

international treaty approved also by Japan. Besides, there is a purely historical basis for it. Speaking of the people's will, an overwhelming majority of the Soviet people, as indicated by a recent TASS-KYODO poll, regard the postwar Soviet-Japanese border as being a legitimate one.

This is the reality. It is impossible to talk about fundamental progress in bilateral relations while ignoring this reality. Nevertheless, the Japanese ruling circles are giving top priority to the so-called territorial issue in considering relations with the USSR. In a recent remark in the Diet, Prime Minister Takeshita said that without a settlement of this issue, there can be no improvement in Japan-USSR relations. This kind of position cannot but have a negative impact on any favorable prospects for development that conforms with the genuine interests of the Soviet and Japanese peoples.

In recent years the territorial campaign against the USSR has taken the form of rude activities by rightist groups and interference with normal functions of the Soviet Embassy in Japan. The Japanese Government's emotional activities like the so-called northern territories inspection trips are certainly fanning anti-Soviet sentiments among some Japanese people. The Japanese Government is definitely aware of this. This kind of campaign is having a destructive impact on USSR-Japan relations as a whole.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Shevardnadze Visit to Afghanistan

Departs Moscow

LD031000 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0900 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign Minister, left for a working visit to the Republic of Afghanistan on 3 April. He was seen off at the airport by Solomentsev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the Party Control Committee at the CPSU Central Committee; Kovalev, first deputy USSR foreign minister; and other officials. Among those at the airport was Safi, ambassador to the USSR for the Republic of Afghanistan.

Kabul Arrival Statement

LD031606 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT
3 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 3 TASS—Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze today arrived here on a working visit. At Kabul Airport he was greeted by the President of the Republic of

Afghanistan Najibullah, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshinand and other officials. The welcoming party included the Soviet Ambassador in Afghanistan Nikolay Yegorychev.

At Kabul airport Eduard Shevardnadze made the following statement to a TASS correspondent:

"We have arrived here to exchange views with the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, the leadership of the country on a wide range of international problems and questions of bilateral relations.

"Of course, our conversations will centre on the political settlement around Afghanistan.

"At the talks in Geneva the Afghan delegation and the Soviet representatives are doing everything possible for a successful completion of the process of political settlement around Afghanistan.

"But unfortunately serious difficulties have developed at these talks because of the non-constructive position taken by Pakistan and the United States.

"In this connection there is need to discuss and to reach agreement with the Afghan leadership on various options of action in all their aspects for the event that the Geneva process fails to bring about the desired results.

"We also intend to inform President Najibullah about our assessments of the state of affairs in the world, brief him on the course of perestroika in our country and to discuss some other questions with him."

Focus on 'Political Settlement'

LD040920 Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT
4 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is holding talks with the leaders of Afghanistan in Kabul today.

He arrived there Sunday on working visit to exchange opinions with the Afghan president and other Afghan leaders on a wide range of international problems and bilateral relations.

Shevardnadze said in a TASS interview after arriving in Kabul that his talks there will focus on a political settlement of the situation regarding Afghanistan.

At the talks in Geneva the Afghan delegation and the Soviet representatives are doing everything possible to successfully conclude the process of achieving a political settlement concerning Afghanistan. But serious difficulties have arisen, unfortunately, at these talks because of the non-constructive position taken by Pakistan and the United States.

At first Islamabad made the issue of the border with Afghanistan, which has remained a bone of contention for many years, the stumbling block, although the Afghan side does not rule out the possibility of separate diplomatic negotiations on the issue.

Then, at the last moment, it is Washington that began putting spokes in the wheels. Seeking to justify its position by talking about the need for "symmetry" in arms supplies by the Soviet Union and the United States, its representatives suggested a "moratorium" on such shipments, though none of the documents agreed upon in Geneva makes any mention of "symmetry" or a "moratorium".

Washington's demand for "symmetry" and its proposal for a "moratorium" on arms supplies are nothing other than an attempt at direct interference in relations between two sovereign countries—the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan.

Talking about "symmetry" and the "moratorium", the opponents of a settlement are attempting to make it appear as though there is no difference between the Government of Afghanistan and the leaders of the "Alliance of the Seven", to equate the lawful government of a sovereign country, which represents it in the United Nations and other international organizations, with the leaders of groups engaging in armed struggle against that government.

In this connection it has become essential to hold discussions and reach agreement with the Afghan leadership on various options of action in all their aspects for the event of the Geneva process failing to bring about the desired results.

It will apparently be better if the United States becomes a guarantor of the agreements on a settlement regarding Afghanistan. But it is quite possible to conclude the Geneva process without the American guarantees, for example, by doing that on the basis of bilateral agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the Soviet Union in this case signing with them a document on the relationship, since the latter speaks of the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

If Islamabad refuses, contrary to common sense and the national interests of Pakistan, to agree to such a solution, then it will be achieved on the basis of a separate Soviet-Afghan agreement on terms convenient for the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. The Soviet political decision on the troop withdrawal remains unchanged.

Meets With Najibullah

LD040937 Moscow TASS in English 0926 GMT
4 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul March 4 TASS—Talks between Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Afghan leadership began on Sunday with a meeting with President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The talks were continued today.

Under discussion are matters concerning a political settlement of the Afghanistan situation in the light of the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva, various aspects of bilateral relations as well as topical international issues.

The talks are being held in a cordial and comradely atmosphere and are characterised by a high degree of accord and mutual understanding.

Commentary on U.S., Pakistani Stands in Geneva

'Symmetry' Issue Denounced

LD011658 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Follows commentary by TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov:

President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan rang up U.S. President Ronald Reagan to tell him that he was worried about the situation emerging at the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva on a political settlement, and he would wish to discuss that impasse at the talks, to find out the general approach of the United States and how to influence the situation in such a way as to enable the participants in the talks to reach agreement, that could be guaranteed by the United States.

And what was the response? As Marlin Fitzwater, the spokesman for the White House, told a briefing, the U.S. stand has not changed, the United States will continue aid to the rebels. We will not abandon the Afghan rebels, he stressed. There has been no change in the stream of aid from the United States. The United States has not reduced any aid, he pointed out.

The American side has reiterated its far-fetched proposition on the need for "symmetry", pointing out that the United States will carry on its aid to the rebels as long as the Soviet Union continues its aid to the Kabul Government.

This proposition is presented to world public opinion as something new, as almost a way to overcoming the impasse in the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz described this stand as a new strategy of the United States and Pakistan.

But what does this stand mean not in words, but in action? Obviously, Washington is abandoning the accords reached earlier and is refusing to be the guarantor of the Geneva accords. Moreover, the United States is insisting that Pakistan should, even after signing the Geneva accords, continue passing on the U.S. weapons to Afghan anti-government troops in violation of its commitments on the Geneva accords. It is absolutely obvious that the "new strategy" presupposing a ban on Soviet aid to Kabul is absolutely unacceptable. It stands

for Washington's direct interference in the Soviet Union's relations with a sovereign state, with which the USSR maintains diplomatic relations and has rendered it assistance on a contractual basis since 1921. There is no cause to violate these agreements.

One can clearly see in the U.S.-Pakistani "new strategy" an attempt at placing on a par the legitimate Afghan Government and the "Peshawar Seven" waging an armed struggle against Kabul and thus legalise it, lend it some "firmer status." The irrelevance of this approach is obvious.

The situation which has emerged, the U.S. side's actual departure from the readiness expressed by it earlier to participate in a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan on the basis of the Geneva accords makes Moscow and Kabul look for other versions of a settlement. Since it is quite possible to complete the Geneva process even without American guarantees, for example, on the basis of a bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Soviet Union would sign a document on a linkage together with them in that case, since the latter deals with the return of Soviet troops home.

But what if Pakistan does not agree to that, contrary to its national interests and common sense. The Soviet political decision on the return of the Soviet troops remains invariable. But then it will be effected on the basis of a separate Soviet-Afghan agreement on conditions suitable for the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

We would like to believe that they in Islamabad, who feel concerned about the destiny of the talks, will evaluate not in words but in action the situation, which has emerged, and take the right decision. Further relations with Afghanistan, the neighbour with which the Pakistani people should live in peace and friendship not only today but also in the future, depend on that decision.

Moscow and Kabul strive for Geneva accords. This is seen from their flexible constructive stand, preparedness for compromises. Will Islamabad and Washington display the same preparedness?

'Crude Interference' Noted

*LD031312 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1204 GMT 3 Apr 88*

[*"A TASS Political Observer on the Afghan Problem—Who Is Impeding a Settlement"*—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Apr (TASS)—TASS political observer Yuriy Kornilov writes:

The new political term, "symmetry," put into circulation by Washington, is continuing to be actively inflated in the Western press and on the airwaves of the "Voice of America." "The USSR does not agree with symmetry on the subject of arms supplies by the Soviet Union and the

United States, and it is precisely for this reason that the negotiations on a political settlement to the Afghan problem have reached a dead end": This is the claim that, according to the inventors' plan, is supposed to paint black as white and to justify the destructive position of those who are really blocking a settlement.

For whom is this claim meant, one asks? After all, one does not have to be a specialist in international law to realize that the demand for so-called "symmetry," a proposal to establish a moratorium on arms supplies, that Washington is putting forward, is nothing more than an attempt at direct and, moreover, crude interference in the affairs of two sovereign states—the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan. We are not talking about the fact that, by holding forth on "symmetry" and "a moratorium," the opponents of a settlement are trying—absolutely in vain, of course—to insinuate the idea that there is no difference between the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the leaders of the "Alliance of Seven." Can it be possible to set the legitimate government of a sovereign state, which is represented at the United Nations and in other international organizations, on the same level as the leaders of groups waging an armed struggle against that government?

"An unrealistic demand"—that is the description THE NEW YORK TIMES gave the arguments put forward by Washington, and that, it seems, is the mildest thing that can be said about these arguments. The impression is being formed that certain circles in the United States that in the past have put spokes into the wheels of the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva on more than one occasion, are now letting it be understood that the United States intends to refrain from becoming a guarantor of agreements on a settlement ultimately that is Washington's affairs. The Geneva process is quite capable of being completed without U.S. guarantees, the more so because geographically, the region where the conflict is taking place is in no way linked with the United States. Furthermore, even if the Geneva talks do not lead to agreement on the accords that are expected of them, even in that eventuality, those opposed to a settlement should not count upon being able to preserve a hotbed of conflict. Of course, both Moscow and Kabul are in favor of success in the Geneva dialogue, but it should not be forgotten that they are also capable of acting upon the basis of a separate bilateral agreement....

An end has to be put to this long drawn-out, bloody, and painful regional conflict in Asia. This is the firm will of the Afghan public, the Soviet public, and also the international public. They cannot fail to take this into account both in Washington and in Islamabad. Those circles in the United States that are hampering the completion of the Geneva process under far-fetched pretenses are taking upon themselves a very serious responsibility. As far as Pakistan is concerned, the leadership of this country ought to ponder its own national

interests very seriously before giving a final "no." Islamabad has a historic opportunity to put down a firm foundation for peaceful and truly good-neighborly relations with a neighboring state. Only someone who does not want to take a look into tomorrow can let that chance slip.

Opposition Leader To Return to Afghanistan
*LD011518 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT
1 Apr 88*

[Text] New Delhi April 1 TASS—"I call upon the leaders of various organisations, especially the three-party alliance, to give a positive response to Afghanistan's call to set up a coalition government.

"This opportunity should not be missed," the head of the office of the three-party alliance of Afghan opposition in the Indian capital said at a press conference held at the Afghan Embassy here today.

The alliance comprises Jabha Milli, Najaoti and Hara-kat-i Islami [names as received].

Haji Gausuddin [name as received] also announced the closing of the three-party alliance office in India and the intention to continue activity in Afghanistan. 70 more people will shortly return home together with him.

Addressing the news conference, he stressed that those who portrayed themselves as "fighters for Islam" were unscrupulously used by the Pakistani Administration and counter-revolutionary chieftains for their selfish goals.

"The main event that influenced our refusal to continue resistance to the Kabul Government," he said, "was the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan."

Replying to questions put by correspondents, the head of the three-party alliance denounced Islamabad's obstructionist stand towards the signing of agreements with Afghanistan in Geneva.

"Had Pakistan not put forward the issue of the border between the two countries, the problem of settling the situation related to Afghanistan would have already been resolved," Gausuddin said.

He reiterated in this connection that the Pakistani Administration should adopt a more constructive stand at the Geneva talks.

Iraqi, Iranian Ministers Expected in Moscow
*LD041218 Kuwait KUNA in English 0943 GMT
4 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow, April 4 (KUNA)—The Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers are expected here within hours in what political observers say indicates the presence of a fresh Soviet initiative in the Gulf war.

Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is expected here in the coming few hours in what sources described as a "lightning" visit with the Soviet officials on the Iraq-Iran war.

The recent escalation of the cities war and the reports about use of chemical weapons in the clashes over the northern Iraqi border town of Halabjah and Iran's apparent inclination to expand the geographical area of the armed conflict threatening the involvement of third parties to the conflict will be the prime centre of 'Aziz's talks with the Soviet leaders, the observers said.

The same sources said that Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will arrive in Moscow in the coming 24 hours but it is not immediately known whether the two opponents will meet while here.

Head of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry Vladimir Polyakov will meet with the visiting ministers in the absence of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who is presently in Kabul.

Shultz Begins 'Another' Mideast Tour

Arrives in Israel

*LD040746 Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT
4 Apr 88*

[Text] Cairo April 4 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Israel at the start of another Middle Eastern tour which will take him also to Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The Arab press says his prime mission is to secure approval for Washington's "peace plan" which effectively provides for reviving a policy of separate deals.

The task is not easy as the U.S. "initiative" ignores what are for the Arabs fundamental, vital problems—the fate of East Jerusalem, the Palestine Liberation Organization's participation in the peace process, and the guarantees of restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM said the secretary of state was able to see from the very first minutes in Israel that no illusions should be entertained apropos of the White House proposals.

The leaders of the Palestinian uprising urged the population of the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip to stage a three-day protest against the visit of Shultz and his "peace plan" which, they said in their statement, aims to "throttle the uprising".

'Complications' in Saudi Ties

LD021834 Moscow International Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] George Shultz is to visit Riyadh during his coming tour of the Middle East. News agency reports referred to complications in Saudi-U.S. relations which have surfaced these days. What is at issue?

The U.S. press reported that Saudi Arabia called for the withdrawal and replacement of U.S. Ambassador Hume Horan, despite the fact that he took over his post just last September. Official Washington is trying to explain those complications by attributing them to the bad relations between the ambassador and King Fahd. But it must be said that the friction in relations between the two countries is the result of Washington's open attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

According to the WASHINGTON POST, the request for the ambassador's withdrawal followed his expression of Washington's official indignation at Riyadh's purchase of Chinese medium-range missiles. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took this step not only out of its legitimate endeavor to consolidate its defensive capability—there is also the fact that Washington had refused to sell such weapons to Riyadh. It is known that the U.S. Congress prevented the delivery of the weapons to Riyadh under the pressure of the Zionist lobby and Israel itself.

The political step taken by the U.S. ambassador was improper, following Tel Aviv's threat to hit the missile launch pads near Riyadh.

It must be said that a Saudi Government spokesman has denied a report in the WASHINGTON POST that Ambassador Hume Horan was recalled at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The U.S. State Department announced officially that Hume Horan is now in Washington for consultations and will not return to Riyadh.

Israeli Trial, Nuclear Ambitions Decried

LD011349 Moscow TASS in English 1332 GMT
1 Apr 88

["Statement by the Peace Committee"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—The harsh sentence passed by the Israeli court on Mordechai Vanunu has again attracted attention to Tel Aviv's nuclear ambitions. This is pointed out in the statement by the Soviet Peace Committee in connection with the sentence of 18 years in prison passed on Mordechai Vanunu, former

technician of the nuclear centre in Dimona, who published in the British press information about the work being done in Israel to create nuclear weapons.

At a time when the efforts of the peoples and governments in different countries are aimed at lowering the level of military confrontation, when agreements are reached on the destruction of whole classes of nuclear weapons Israel is unfolding its nuclear program, clearly demonstrating that in implementing its aggressive policy it is ready to threaten the security of the world, the statement emphasizes.

Israel stubbornly refuses to accede to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, has barred IAEA inspectors from Dimona, creates potential delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons, in particular, the ballistic missile "Jericho-2". The facts cited by Vanunu have demonstrated how real is the danger of the appearance of a new "nuclear dimension" of the Middle East conflict, which for 40 years now has created a threat to peace the world over.

We strongly favour a just peace in the Middle East and support the efforts of peace-loving public aimed at preventing the appearance of nuclear weapons in that explosive area, at creating there a nuclear-free zone, which would be an important contribution to strengthening peace the world over, the statement underscores.

Gorbachev Receives Indian Envoy, Gandhi Message

LD041437 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT
4 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev today received India's Ambassador to the USSR Triloki Nath Kaul who presented a personal message from Prime Minister of the Republic of India Rajiv Gandhi. A brief conversation was held in a traditional spirit of confidence and friendship. Questions connected with a regular nature of the Soviet-Indian summit dialogue, and topical international matters of interest to both sides were discussed.

Mikhail Gorbachev asked that best wishes be conveyed to Rajiv Gandhi.

Shevardnadze Receives Indian Minister

LD021842 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze received today the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh, who is in Moscow on a business visit.

The further strengthening of interaction between the Soviet Union and India in solving key international problems on the basis of the Delhi Declaration of principles for a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world and the Soviet-Indian treaty of 1971 was noted with satisfaction during the conversation.

There was an in-depth and constructive exchange of views on problems of disarmament, first of all nuclear disarmament, on the solution of regional conflicts and on individual questions of Soviet-Indian cooperation.

The historic importance of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles as a landmark signifying the commencement of the road to real nuclear disarmament was stressed. The drafting of an accord between the USSR and the United States on a fifty per cent reduction of strategic offensive arms in conditions of observance by the sides of the ABM Treaty and of non-withdrawal from it within an agreed-upon period of time should become the next particularly important step in this direction.

It was noted by the Soviet side that the cause of nuclear disarmament is actively facilitated by the constructive stand taken by India, the initiatives of the "Group of Six states" and by the activity of the Nonaligned Movement.

Questions connected with Afghanistan were studied in detail.

The Indian side highly evaluated the proposals contained in the statements made by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah on February 8 that open the road to a full and comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem.

Support for the constructive and flexible course pursued by the Afghan side in Geneva was confirmed and hope for the speediest signing of the Geneva accords was expressed. In this context a coinciding view was expressed that the settlement of the external aspects of the problem of Afghanistan on the basis of cessation of outside interference in its internal affairs will exert a beneficial influence on the political climate in the region and ensure the necessary conditions for the withdrawal of Soviet troops within the time frame agreed upon in the Geneva documents.

The sides noted that the course of national reconciliation pursued by the Afghan leadership is the most reliable way of solving Afghanistan's domestic problems by the efforts of that country's people.

Support was expressed for President Najibullah's efforts to preserve the Republic of Afghanistan as an independent, sovereign and nonaligned country.

The conversation passed in a warm and frank atmosphere traditional for the friendly relations between the USSR and India.

Gorbachev Speeches Published in Bangladesh

*LD291427 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT
29 Mar 88*

[Text] Dhaka March 29 TASS—A book entitled "The USSR-USA: Summit Talks in Washington" has been put out by the Bangladesh Papyrus Press publishing firm. The book includes speeches made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the eve of and during the summit as well as the final documents of the Soviet-U.S. talks.

The Digonto Press publishing firm has issued in a separate pamphlet the report delivered by Mikhail Gorbachev at the celebration meeting in Moscow on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The pamphlet in the Bengali language is entitled "The October Revolution and Perestroika: The Struggle Goes On".

The two books have been prepared by the Bangladesh-USSR Friendship Society.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Reportage on Adamishin Visit to Angola

Received by President

*LD011039 Moscow TASS in English 0957 GMT
1 Apr 88*

[Text] Luanda April 1 TASS—Chairman of the MPLA-Workers Party, President of the People's Republic of Angola Jose Eduardo dos Santos received on Thursday the USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin who is now on a working visit here. Adamishin informed the president of the results of the talks held by the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington with the U.S. President Reagan and the Secretary of State George Shultz, which marked an important stage in preparations for the Soviet-American summit meeting to be held in Moscow.

The Angolan president welcomed the upcoming meeting between the General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan, and said he wished the summit to achieve concrete results in the field of disarmament, above all nuclear, and to help bring about a just settlement of conflict situations.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos told the Soviet deputy foreign minister about the situation in the south of Africa, the South-African aggression against Angola and about the Angolan leadership's efforts in the matter of arriving at a political settlement of the dangerous conflict in the region.

The Soviet envoy informed the Angolan president on the outcome of the Soviet-American exchange of opinions on South Africa, held in Washington. The Soviet side favoured preserving the momentum of the peaceful settlement of the situation in the south of the African Continent, and arriving at an honest and mutually-acceptable agreement taking account of the interests of all sides and of the right of every people to independent development. It also supported the constructive positions taken by Angola and Cuba at the talks and the PRA's legitimate demand that outside interference in its internal affairs be ceased.

The meeting in Luanda confirmed that the USSR and the PRA uphold the need for the international community to redouble its efforts in order to force South Africa to stop its aggression against Angola without delay, to withdraw its troops from Angolan territory under Resolution 602 of the U.N. Security Council and to grant independence to Namibia. The Soviet side reiterated its firm solidarity with the just cause of the Angolan people.

Topical issues of the Soviet-Angolan relations were discussed in the spirit of friendship and cordiality.

On the same day Anatoliy Adamishin met with the SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) President Sam Nujoma. They expressed their overall assessments of the situation in the south of Africa, and a reciprocal determination to contribute to the implementation of the U.N. decisions on Namibia and to a just settlement in the region.

Denies Secret UNITA Contacts

LD012143 Moscow World Service in English
2100 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin has dismissed Western allegations to the effect that Moscow has established secret contacts with the UNITA grouping waging armed struggle against the Angolan Government. At a press conference in Luanda, Adamishin reaffirmed consistent Soviet support for the Angolan position. It envisages in particular a stop to South African and Western aid to UNITA, along with the withdrawal of South African troops from that country's territory, which are indispensable for ensuring peace in the region.

Prospects of Dos Santos-Savimbi Meeting Viewed

LD012131 Moscow in Portuguese to Africa
1830 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Angola has refuted reports that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos would be willing to meet UNITA leader Savimbi. Here is our commentary:

This is not the first time statements like this have been made in the West. From time to time, campaigns such as this are organized by Pretoria and even by Savimbi himself. This is also not the first time Angolan leaders

have been forced to unmask such lies, writes Vladimir Grigoryev. According to a REUTER correspondent, Jonas Savimbi recently said from his hideout that if the Angolan Government wants to have talks then it will, and I stress will, have them with him and nobody else. Because when one talks about UNITA one talks about me, said Savimbi arrogantly. For many people in Angola—but not all, and not just there—the word UNITA is associated with Savimbi.

The Angolan president once again stressed that there is UNITA and there is Savimbi, and not all those who belong to that organization at the moment can or should be identified with the terrorist leader. The Angolan Government stance on this matter was taken with the utmost clarity and determination. All those willing to leave the bandit group can lay down their weapons any time and move to the side of the people's power. A pardon is guaranteed, and in the future, total amnesty. The fight against those who continue to carry out subversive activities against the people of Angola will be relentless.

Savimbi says that he puts out his hand to the MPLA but they do not accept it because it is too strong. What could be said about this? He is demagogic and full of himself. Everyone knows that without U.S. weapons, without the generous donations of his bosses, and without South African military support, there would not be even a shadow of that so-called strength.

Telegram Exchange Marks Ties With Djibouti

PM311211 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 88
Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] In connection with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Republic of Djibouti, there has been an exchange of telegrams between the two countries' foreign ministries.

They expressed the certainty that friendly Soviet-Djibouti relations, based on the principles of complete equality, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, will continue to develop in the interests of the peoples of the USSR and Djibouti and the cause of peace and international cooperation.

Demichev Receives New Ghana Envoy's Credentials

LD302015 Moscow TASS in English 1642 GMT
30 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana Chris Hesse presented his credentials to Petr Demichev, first vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, in the Kremlin today.

After the presentation of the credentials and an exchange of speeches, Demichev and Hesse had a friendly conversation.

CC Sends Greetings to Mali Party Congress

'Traditional' Cooperation Noted

PM290939 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 88
Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee greetings to Mali People's Democratic Union [UDPM] Congress]

[Text] To the Third UDPM Congress

The CPSU Central Committee greets the delegates to the Third UDPM Congress.

The Soviet people appreciate and understand the efforts of the Malian people and their party—the UDPM—aimed at strengthening political independence, achieving economic independence for the country, and developing Mali along the path of national and social progress.

Encouraging positive shifts are now to be seen in international relations and a step toward real disarmament has been taken for the first time. We note with satisfaction the collaboration between the CPSU and the UDPM in the struggle to secure peace, avert nuclear catastrophe, oppose colonialism, racism, and apartheid, and establish a new economic system, and on many other pressing present-day problems.

The Soviet Union highly values the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the CPSU and the UDPM and between the USSR and the Republic of Mali and has invariably advocated their further development.

We wish the Third UDPM Congress successful and fruitful work.

The CPSU Central Committee

Malians Receive Delegation

PM291345 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 88
Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Reception of Delegation"]

[Text] Bamako, 27 Mar—The CPSU delegation headed by A.P. Nochevkin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Odessa Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom, which has arrived here to take part in the work of the Third Mali People's Democratic Union [UDPM] Congress, which opens 28 March, has been received by Oumar Coulibaly, the UDPM Central Executive Bureau secretary responsible for economic and social questions.

During the meeting the CPSU delegation head described how the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress are being implemented, the results of the CPSU Central Committee February plenum, and progress in restructuring in the USSR. The UDPM Central Executive Bureau secretary informed the delegation members on the situation in the republic on the eve of the UDPM congress. The party congress, he said, will determine ways of overcoming the financial and economic difficulties caused by the unfavorable conditions of the world market and the long drought and will also tackle other important tasks. He stressed the importance for Malians of Soviet experience, particularly in the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society. The UDPM leadership member noted the USSR's leading role in the struggle to ease international tension and achieve a world free of war and aggression. Oumar Coulibaly expressed gratitude to the Soviet people for their support and constant assistance to Mali in various spheres.

The CPSU delegation was also received by Sidiki Diarra, member of the UDPM Central Executive Bureau and president of the Malian National Assembly (Parliament).

Broadcasting Protocol Signed With Madagascar

PM291147 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Mar 88
Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] Antananarivo, 26 Mar—A 3-year protocol has been signed here on cooperation between the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the Malagasy radio and television organization.

East Europe

CSSR's Husak To Visit Soviet Union 'Mid-April'

LD041441 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT
4 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Gustav Husak, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and president of Czechoslovakia, will pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union in mid-April 1988 at the invitation of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, it has been officially announced here.

Poland's Jaruzelski Meets Kulikov, Gribkov

LD011923 Warsaw Television Service in Polish
1730 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] In the presence of Florian Siwicki, Wojciech Jaruzelski has received Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact Nations, and Army General Anatoliy Gribkov, chief of staff of the Joint Armed Forces, who are on a working visit to Poland. During the

meeting, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, views were exchanged on the politico-military situation and ways to further improve cooperation between the Warsaw Pact armies.

Orzechowski on 'New Phase' in Relations
*LD011343 Moscow TASS in English 1315 GMT
1 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski has pointed to his country's alliance with the USSR, forged and tested during the Second World War and throughout the 40 post-war years, and with other socialist nations as the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

Orzechowski, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party and foreign minister of Poland, was writing in the April issue of the Soviet journal INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

He said relations with the USSR occupy a special place in Poland's foreign policy and that the support and assistance of the neighboring Soviet Union, with which it is bound by unshakeable friendship, meet the interests of his country, while the existence of a strong and independent Poland meets the interests of the USSR.

"Today we are entering a new phase in Polish-Soviet relations and working for them to acquire a new quality, new forms and contents stemming from the allied nature of the perestroika policy in the Soviet Union and the socialist renewal policy in Poland," Orzechowski said.

"We attach much significance to jointly eliminating 'blank spots' from our history. It has had its dramatic and difficult moments which have to be jointly interpreted and explained objectively and accurately," he added.

Speaking of his country's relations with the West, he said Poland wants them to be characterized by political dialogue, mutually advantageous economic cooperation, normal crediting and financial relations, developed cultural contacts and readiness to solve humanitarian issues.

The Polish foreign minister expressed his country's interest in consolidating the CSCE process. He stressed that the linkage between national and international security is now closer and more obvious than ever.

"Our aim is a secure Europe and a world free from threats. Poland has been and will remain active in efforts to uphold and strengthen world peace," the Polish foreign minister emphasized.

West Europe

Shultz Pays 2-Day Official Visit to Italy

Holds Talks With Leaders

*LD021607 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT
2 Apr 88*

[Text] Rome April 2 TASS—On Friday U.S. State Secretary George Shultz staying here on a two-day official visit, held talks with Italian leaders—Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and Defence Minister Valerio Zanone. The talks centred on issues of East-West relations on the eve of the coming Soviet-American summit, as well as the Middle East situation in the light of the trip by the head of the U.S. foreign office to Middle Eastern countries on a "peace mission", which will start on Sunday.

A possible shift to Italy of 72 American fighter bombers F-16 which are stationed at the U.S. air base in the city of Torrejon de Ardoz near Madrid, was an important question discussed by Shultz in Rome. Under an understanding reached between Spain and the USA, U.S. fighters are to be withdrawn from Spain over three years. After the end of the talks U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that Italy had expressed readiness to study seriously the question on deploying F-16 fighters on its territory, and the U.S. side highly assessed these efforts. According to Zanone, the examination of this question within NATO is passing satisfactorily. The defence minister alleged that if U.S. fighters are forced to return overseas, finding no place in Europe, this would be a move leading to unilateral disarmament and would be detrimental to security of NATO's southern flank. In turn, Andreotti said that such a development of events would be a blunder and would increase a disbalance in the sphere of conventional weapons in favour of the East.

The U.S. state secretary and the Italian defence minister discussed the question of displacing outdated missiles Nike in the Italian anti-aircraft defence system with more sophisticated Patriots. They also examined the situation in the Persian Gulf. According to Zanone, the U.S. side again gave a high appraisal of Italy's actions which had dispatched warships there.

Briefing Held

*LD021913 Moscow TASS in English 1851 GMT
2 Apr 88*

[Text] Rome April 2 TASS—The U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is on a visit in Rome, today held a press conference at the American Embassy on the results of his talks in the Italian capital.

He had meetings with the Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and Defence Minister Valerio Zanone, was received by the President of Italy Francesco Cossiga and Pope John Paul the Second.

The secretary of state said that the question of the possible redeployment of American F-16 fighter-bombers from Spain to Italy was discussed with the Italian ministers. He said the Italian Government had "shown readiness" to study the question of the possible redeployment of planes with the aim of "protecting" NATO's left flank.

Shultz, who is to visit Israel on Sunday, contended that the Italian leaders and the pope had stated "support" for the American plan of establishing peace in the Middle East. He added, however, that he had not planned "so far" meetings with Palestinian representatives on Israeli-occupied territories. While stating that any efforts to restore peace in the Middle East should be undertaken with the participation of Palestinians the secretary of state confirmed at the same time that the U.S. position in respect of the Palestine Liberation Organisation had not changed.

George Shultz said that direct talks with the PLO should be preceded by the PLO's recognition of the State of Israel and renunciation of what he termed as terrorism and all forms of armed struggle. He also said that his latest Middle East mission was not the last one.

In the opinion of the local newspaper IL TEMPO the "new mission" by George Shultz has virtually no chances of success. Despite small differences in the stands taken by the Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhak Shamir and the Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the paper believes that Tel Aviv firmly intends to make no concessions, especially in what concerns a withdrawal of troops from occupied Arab territories. In turn, the ITA-LIA agency writes that considering the growing tension in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank of the Jordan "the prospects of a successful conclusion of Shultz's new initiative appear very dim".

The PLO representative in Italy Nimr Haddad sharply criticised the secretary of state's "peace plan of a Middle East settlement". He said that the PLO's attitude to this plan is negative because it ignores two key moments: the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories.

Newspapers View Visit

LD031402 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT
3 Apr 88

[Text] Rome April 3 TASS—The official part of the stay of the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the Italian capital is over. He had meetings with the Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and Defence Minister Valerio Zanone, was received by the President of Italy Francesco Cossiga and also by the head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope John Paul the Second. Today George Shultz leaves for Israel.

Commenting on the intensive two-day talks in Rome local observers unanimously note that in effect the main theme of the talks was the question of the possible redeployment in Italy of the 72 American F-16 fighter-bombers that are now at a U.S. base near Madrid and which should be withdrawn from Spanish territory in accordance with an agreement between Spain and the United States.

Speaking at the concluding press conference on Saturday the U.S. secretary of state noted with satisfaction that Italy had demonstrated readiness to play host to these American planes. Attention however is being drawn to the words said by Andreotti at the same press conference: "Perhaps now is not a suitable time for adopting a decision" on the future of the 72 F-16 planes. Commenting on this statement by the Italian minister the papers write that its "cautious tone" reflects the Italian side's desire first to analyse "the prospects for and course of development of the talks conducted in Europe" and only then adopt some "final decision" on the American fighter-bombers.

The situation in the Middle East was another important theme of the talks conducted by the U.S. secretary of state in Rome. Despite the very optimistic statement by George Shultz that the American plan of establishing peace in the Middle East had been received with warm support in Italy he was forced to admit that there nevertheless still remained some differences with the Italian side in the approach to this problem.

A number of local newspapers predicted the inevitable failure of the latest Middle East mission by the head of the American diplomatic establishment. The more so that the secretary of state himself admitted during the press conference that at present he could not offer any whatsoever "new plans" concerning a Middle East settlement. The newspaper L'UNITA writes that the Palestinian question remains the main problem on the road to the opening of peace talks in the Middle East. George Shultz confirmed in Rome that during his forthcoming visit to Israel he did not intend to meet with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and that Washington's attitude to the PLO had not changed.

France's Mitterrand on Foreign, Domestic Policy

LD010942 Moscow TASS in English 0817 GMT
1 Mar 88

[Text] Paris April 1 TASS—French President Francois Mitterrand favoured improved East-West relations in a televised interview broadcast by TF-1 company. The president, who announced he would run for presidency, supported the idea of speeding up disarmament adding that the signing of arms reduction agreements would release funds needed to solve problems facing millions of people.

The question of medium- and shorter-range missiles has been solved and the problem of strategic offensive weapons is being discussed, he continued. However, the president contended that the problem of conventional arms cuts in Europe, which allegedly would leave Eastern European countries at advantage, becomes a top priority issue. Without speaking about what France could do for disarmament, the president laid emphasis on the fact that the Soviet Union and the USA had a potential which surpassed French nuclear forces.

Speaking on international issues, Francois Mitterrand touched upon the situation of developing countries, describing it as grave. He admitted that industrially developed nations were behaving egoistically, because they took from those countries more than they gave them.

The programme focused on domestic problems and the run-up to the presidential elections. The president set forth some principles of his policy, designed to ensure social justice. Saying that there were no miracle recipes to solve the unemployment problem, the president continued that he would neither nationalize nor denationalize industrial companies and banks. He also set forth his view on the tax policy and some other domestic issues.

Asked about his possible actions in the event of reelection, Francois Mitterrand said he would immediately appoint a prime minister in line with the ideas the president was expounding. Saying that his government will appear before the National Assembly, he, however, refused to specify the party affiliation of the new cabinet. If the parliament's lower chamber, where majority belongs to right-wing forces, rejects government programme, new elections to the National Assembly will be held. The president made a point of emphasizing that he tried to avoid political instability.

Latin America & Caribbean

U.S. Building Up Military Presence in Panama

LD040736 Moscow TASS in English 0714 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City March 4 TASS—New step by Washington to build up U.S. military presence on Panamanian soil has become known here.

The local press reported that another 1,300 U.S. servicemen would arrive on Tuesday at the area of the location of the Pentagon's Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone, and that twenty-seven helicopters, seven Cobra Artillery mounts [as received], and four radar installations would be brought to Panama together with them.

The opinion of the Panamanian press is that continuous build-up of U.S. presence and the nature of troops and hardware being moved there can be regarded only as preparation for a direct military intervention against that country.

Reasons Viewed

LD041303 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0900 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] New steps taken by Washington in building up its military presence on Panamanian soil have become public knowledge. They are regarded as being nothing other than preparations for direct military intervention. Here is a report from our correspondent in New York, Vladimir Gerasichev:

[Gerasichev] It is becoming increasingly obvious now that Washington is preparing to use military force in Panama. The White House has adopted a decision to send another 1,300 airborne landing troops. The operation will begin tomorrow and will be completed on (?Friday). Together with these units, reinforced by several dozen helicopters, the United States will have at its disposal in the Panama Canal Zone nearly 12,000 soldiers. But it would appear that the Pentagon feels that even this is not enough. THE NEW YORK TIMES, for example, draws attention to the nature of the detachments that are being moved in and stresses that these are (?really) an advance group whose tasks include establishing a headquarters for formations which will be sent to Panama at a later date.

How, then, does the White House justify the intervention against Panama which has effectively already begun? The method is the same one that was used in the case of the aggression against Grenada: The protection of U.S. citizens in the state in question. True, THE WASHINGTON POST was more frank in writing about the purposes behind intensifying the U.S. military presence in the Panama Canal Zone. It is aimed at giving support to Delvalle, the Panamanian president who was removed from his post, in his struggle against General Noriega. Washington's attempts to secure the resignation of Panama's military leader through economic and political pressure have essentially failed. Many Latin American states expressed themselves in favor of Panama being given economic assistance, and Washington then went over to open military threats. At first Gen Noriega was accused of complicity in smuggling drugs into the United States, and now other accusations have also been made. Juan Sosa, Panama's former ambassador in Washington, has stated that Panama is allegedly on the brink of being turned into a communist state. Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, admitted that the administration examined the question of taking Gen Noriega by force but allegedly discarded that idea. Judging by the scale of the United States military preparations in Panama, however, Washington is still placing its stake upon force in its relations with the states of Central America.

Panama Crisis Aids Latin American Consolidation

PA040422 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba in Spanish
0100 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Mikhail Mayorov commentary]

[Text] At the request of Panama, the Council of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, which is a representative

regional organization, last Monday began to discuss economic sanctions imposed against that country by the United States.

Panamanian deposits in U.S. banks are frozen, funds owed to the country for (?exploiting) the canal are not reaching the treasury, and commerce has been interrupted. Because of its traditional dependence on its neighbor to the north, Panama has always been very economically vulnerable. On this occasion the small country was on the brink of a true catastrophe.

Panama knocked on the doors of SELA seeking the solidarity of the other countries in the hemisphere. It did not do wrong. Was this a chance? Could it have happened any other way? Could Latin America have turned a blind eye to the Panamanian complaint? No, that did not happen. That did not happen perhaps because Latin American countries imagined themselves with yokes on their own necks when they saw the yoke tighten around another country's neck. Today it is Panama, but who will be next tomorrow? It seems that this

question played a role in the drafting and approval in Caracas of a resolution condemning economic sanctions against Panama. The SELA Council is also trying to examine the Panamanian request for aid to overcome its current difficulties.

From a more general outlook, in my opinion, this could become a focus prompting Latin America to create its own economic security system—a kind of shield protecting it from sanctions, retaliation, and boycotts that [words indistinct].

As for the main result of the Caracas meeting, it was shown that while the Panamanian economy, which is dependent on the United States, is vulnerable, so is Washington's policy toward that country.

The attempt to isolate Panama failed. There is more: The crisis provoked in that country gave a new impulse to the consolidation of all of Latin America in the face of a general threat.

Political & Social

More on Azerbaijan, Armenian Situation

Sumgait Armed Workers Meet

NC010733 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1600 GMT 29 Mar 88

[Text] The armed workers' detachments held their first meeting in Sumgait. A total of 132 active units, made up of more than 3,000 men, met for the first time. They are individuals who have been contributing around the clock to help protect of the city and establish law and order for the [words indistinct].

The tragic incidents in Sumgait have demonstrated the importance of the role of the armed workers' detachments. It has been understood that the detachments [words indistinct]. Consequently, the armed detachments were unable to take joint action against the (?disruption of law and order). All this was taken into consideration and measures were established to prevent the recurrence of the incidents.

The voluntary armed workers' detachments are mainly made up of Communists, Komsomol members, and [word indistinct]. The number of centers for maintaining social order in the city have been increased by 2.5 times.

First Secretary of the Sumgait City Party Committee Zulfi Gadzhiev, representatives of the work collectives, and [words indistinct] addressed the meeting on the tasks of the voluntary detachments. Mamed Asadov, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Administrative Organs Department, participated in the work of the meeting.

Commentary Views Events

LD312211 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress
in German 1930 GMT 30 Mar 88

[Text] Here is a talk by Soviet political journalist (Grigoriy Organov). We asked him what he thought about events in Azerbaijan and Armenia:

Since the attention of the whole country is now focused on the dramatic events in Azerbaijan and Armenia, (Grigoriy Organov) said, it is exceptionally important to think over calmly and profoundly what has happened there. Naturally time is needed for this in order to give all-round consideration to this difficult problem so as to explain everything with the greatest tact and with greatest advantage to the agitated people who are reeling from the outbreak of passions, emotions, and indignation at the atrocities of disruptive elements. This applies in particular to the events in Sumgait, an industrial town not far from the capital of Azerbaijan.

How is it possible to explain to these people how such unrest could occur? These serious consequences have their roots in the past, reaching back as far as the times

of the tsars. There is also the matter of the mistakes of the local authorities which were not, as they should have been, of the best. It is claimed that, in these circumstances, it was apparently the slogans about change, publicity, and democratization that acted as the spark which set the fire ablaze.

This is an erroneous if not provocative theory. On the contrary, restructuring and the development of democratic foundations encourage the corruption of any mistakes and at the same time help to accelerate economic and social development. As is known, it is planned to call a CPSU Central Committee plenum on the nationalities issue. The plenum will allow this complicated, painful problem to be considered from all sides.

I would like today, (Organov) said, to consider the unfortunately not very reasonable role played by the Western press during these events; namely, the reporting and interpretation of the news that it served up to its listeners and readers. There is probably no one who would have left events of this nature unnoticed. Unfortunately, however, they were portrayed in a very tendentious manner by a section of the press. The British press was particularly conspicuous in this respect. The fact is that newspapers including the INDEPENDENT, THE SUNDAY TIMES and even such solid newspapers as THE TIMES, interpreted the events in Nagorno-Karabakh in such a way as to cast aspersions on the policy of glasnost which is being carried out by the Soviet leadership. THE INDEPENDENT went so far in its lamentations as to imply that the occurrence of events in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, and Armenia demonstrated the rejection of the policy of publicity. The journalist (Anthony Barrett) who was, naturally, not present at this [word indistinct] event, wrote in the NEW STATESMAN that the stormy events in Armenia must be seen as a result of the reforms being carried out in the Soviet Union and he concluded his commentary with the claim that it was evidence of the start of restructuring's greatest crisis.

These are not simply fabrications which have been written. An attack is basically being made on the policy of restructuring itself. I would go so far as to say that a policy of unilaterally whipping up negative factors which can somehow be used against the ideological opponent has taken firm root in those foreign radio and press items.

There is to us a frankly incomprehensible sense of gloating which becomes evident over this or that difficulty that might arise in some country, gloating that is un-concealed, gloating at the lines, at shortages of goods, at the inefficient operation of local transportation, short-falls in the service industry, and so forth. Yes, all these exist, queues, goods in short supply, even the inefficient operation of transportation, things not working out properly in the service sector, these all exist. But it is also true that a huge effort is being made in the country to get rid of these problems, to improve what is still not

functioning properly, to accelerate socioeconomic development in the various fields. On the whole, we believe that we are dealing with a typical example of the reactionary attitude which was characteristic of the bourgeois press in the cold war years.

It is very, very typical that Western journalists often choose as their correspondents, whom they can supposedly cite, people from among the dissidents. And the lenses of the Zeiss and Nikon cameras are aimed only at dirty action, so-called. Some journalists, some heads of Western mass media, appear to be strongly impressed by our initiative, our policy of restructuring, the calls for openness and democratization. But they find no pleasure in it. The impression is that all this has given them a shock. Why? At the moment we do not know. We can only note that the reactionaries of all shades suddenly changed their minds and suddenly realized that they were obliged to support our peaceful initiatives as well as our policy of democratization in various spheres of life, the openness which is becoming established in the Soviet Union.

They suddenly changed their minds and screamed bloody murder and a feverish search got underway for a target to attack, a search for a target for a subversive propaganda barrage. And it must be said that imperialist propaganda has much experience in this art. So a relatively new sphere was thought up for the Western special services, for imperialist propaganda subversion—namely the area of inter-republic relations. This target seemed very tempting to those who disliked our efforts. And how! It seemed to them that thanks to the attacks directed against the USSR's nationalities policy, (?against this goal), the subject of human rights violations in the Soviet Union, a subject which literally looked more and more exhausted, could be revived. This is a subject which Western bourgeois propaganda has dragged up over a long period of time, even though it has not reaped any great dividends from it.

That is why the long-playing record was put on about the acute crisis which is supposed to have hit the national policy of the communists. In particular, the BBC's journalists are making great efforts at the moment and have literally sunk their teeth into the subject of Nagorno-Karabakh and are luridly portraying in every way the events in Azerbaijan and Armenia, loudly citing some report or other and immediately rejecting all official Soviet reports. The BBC is not sparing with its own version in this respect, but is basically concerned with stirring up passions in a sphere, moreover, in which the most rational thing to do is keep calm and show restraint. If we are looking at this subject, we must do so armed with maximum knowledge. In other words, we must try to understand what is actually happening and be aware of the history of this subject. Instead, however, they resort to excesses. Passions are stirred up and, basically speaking, it is a case of irresponsible false reports and direct incitement.

I would stress the following. (Grigoriy Organov) says, the BBC's participation in the distasteful propaganda campaign arises from extreme hypocrisy, because it has not been forgotten in the Transcaucasian republic that it was British officers in 1918 who ordered the shooting of the 26 Baku commissars. [passage indistinct] Today, however, the BBC is shedding hypocritical tears about the fate of the Armenian patriots and protectors of the law. You know, this is a picture that we can only ridicule.

Need for Return To Work Stressed

PM311535 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 3

[Special correspondent P. Gutiontov report: "Stepanakert: Honest, Sincere Discussion"]

[Text] A party gorkom plenum was held 30 March to discuss the situation in Stepanakert. I will state frankly that I have not attended such plenums before. The only thing to be read out "according to the paper" was the report. People spoke ardently, honestly, and sincerely. Engineer Yekaterina Chakmazova even burst into tears—right on the rostrum.

What was spoken of at the plenum?

The majority of Communists resolutely condemned the tactic of "strong-arm pressure" on the country's leadership and, at the same time, each speaker emphasized that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh has not yet been removed and needs resolving. This was also recorded in the unanimously adopted resolution.

One of the speakers at the plenum—Robert Kocharyan, secretary of the silk combine's party committee—came to see me in the hotel this morning. This is what he asked me to convey to the editors on his behalf:

"Today 308 of our people turned up to work—just one-fifth of the combine's collective. For me, this is as good as zero and, as secretary of the party committee, I am ashamed for myself and my comrades. That is the chief point. But I want to say something else. I realize what resistance is aroused by the steps now being taken in the direction of democratizing society. And, unfortunately, the continuing absenteeism from work in Stepanakert gives champions of the old ways grounds for saying: That is the result you get! You have let the people get out of hand! They must not be given such grounds. I speak of this because I myself have only just taken a really deep breath and felt myself to be someone on whom something depends.

"I was a member of the Nagorno-Karabakh delegation to the CPSU Central Committee—the press obligingly called us representatives of the oblast's labor collectives. We had a long and frank conversation with a secretary of the party's Central Committee. And I am convinced that

the continuing disorder, above all, is preventing the country's leaders from examining the real problems we told them about and the options for possible solutions to these problems."

Zhanna Galstyan, honored artist of the republic, handed me her letter to *ZVESTIYA*. I cite it verbatim, without amendments:

"I am a member of the now disbanded council of the 'Krun' Society and leader of its 'group for holding rallies and demonstrations.' Let us leave aside what strikes me as unjust—the charges of extremism leveled at our society in the press. It is, after all, not only a question of our reputation. Regardless of personal grievances, we do not have the moral right to move to the sidelines and relinquish responsibility for what is happening in our land. Precisely this is why I consider it necessary to state bluntly: In my view, the continuing absenteeism from work only hinders the correct resolution of a question of concern to us all.

"The Karabakhi has not yet been born who would be capable of begging for alms. No one will feed us, but if someone does there is nothing more humiliating than eating bread which has not been earned with honest labor. Moreover, hiccups in industry instantly affect other regions of the country, quite innocent people suffer, and the country suffers material losses.

"And I appeal to my fellow countrymen: Let us work and not prevent the country's leadership from resolving our problems objectively and in a calm atmosphere."

In conclusion I will say: I want very much to believe that reason will prevail over emotions and the city will return to its normal life—this is necessary and essential for everyone today.

'Barrier' Must Come Down

PM011147 Moscow *SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA* in Russian 1 Apr 88 p 3

[Article by Akif Bagemskiy, chief of a main administration of the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Industry: "No Higher Duty"]

[Excerpts] With each passing day the need for truth, for more truth about our life and our restructuring, increases. Only the truth is capable of molding ideological conviction. Without it you cannot resolve the tasks of acceleration or the renewal of the social system.

There is also a need for truth about the state of relations between nations—a question which has become acute now. I took part in a recent meeting at the CPSU Central Committee along with Azerbaijani and Armenian scientists and cultural figures working in Moscow. The speakers expressed grave concern at the events in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the situation which has come about in the Armenian and Azerbaijan SSR's.

It was stated frankly at the meeting that in the development of relations between the nations there have been difficulties inherited from the past and problems which have arisen since then. [passage omitted]

In performing my official duties I often go on assignment to the remote oil-producing regions of the country where I see how people of the most diverse nationalities, Armenians and Azerbaijanis among them, share a common lot and do common work in difficult climates far from their native lands.

That is why it so distressed me that such an unprecedented conflict should happen in Nagorno-Karabakh, Sumgait, and some other cities. At the end of February I went to Kirovabad to visit my mother who was seriously ill and I witnessed the development of certain events. Once again I repeat how much it distressed me to see such things. I was particularly sorry for the young people. Egged on by hostile elements, they relished the negative events and were spoiling for a fight.

I spoke candidly with many people and realized that the national discord and mutual suspicion result from omissions in education and a lack of real ideological influence. Nor do I discount the anti-Soviet propaganda of transatlantic radio stations which have been trying to kindle hostility among us.

Under these conditions it is important that every Communist consider himself mobilized for the struggle against nationalist attacks and for the establishment of the internationalist cause.

Sometimes it doesn't take very much. For example, we can surely win the waverers back to our side. Once again I think of Kirovabad. For 3 days my wife's brother, who is a television repair man there, refused to answer calls from the homes of Armenian families. I asked him: "Are you afraid?" Clearly that wounded his masculine pride. That evening he announced that he had been to six homes and that wherever he went he had been greeted hospitably and offered tea. After a similar "political conversation" with Nazim, another brother-in-law who is a medical auxiliary at a hygiene and epidemiology station, the latter offered his apartment to two Armenian families who had been threatened by hooligans. Many Azerbaijani families responded in that way.

Analyzing the events I again begin to wonder: Why did the tension occur? In my view there were careerists and intriguers, people who couldn't stomach restructuring and who determined to exploit our shortcomings and difficulties.

There is no doubt that during the period of stagnation there were many omissions and it is all the more necessary for us now to unite around the Communist Party and set the economy straight by means of the joint efforts of all the peoples.

For many long years the oil industry undersupplied the country to the tune of tens of millions of tonnes of oil. The sector did not fulfill plans for the construction of housing, preschool establishments, schools, hospitals, sports premises, and trade and agricultural facilities. In the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan, however, the petroleum sector has caught up, is now meeting the oil extraction targets, and has made good its debt to the country. Social and consumer conditions are improving and the trade service for the sector's workers is being set right. Specialists from the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Tatar and Bashkir ASSR's are making a large contribution to that.

Clearly, help for Nagorno-Karabakh in accelerating the solution of its urgent socioconsumer and other problems would be most timely. I think that it would be a good idea if union republic ministries and departments with enterprises in the oblast were to allocate the necessary money, equipment, and other material resources and send advanced workers and specialists to Nagorno-Karabakh. The Komsomol Central Committee could, I think, set up Komsomol detachments of young people from the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and other republics.

To remove the barrier which has formed between the fraternal Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, it is necessary to open more national schools, and museums and theaters for the propaganda and study of the art and history of the peoples of those and other union republics.

In my opinion scientific and cultural exchanges should be increased. That could be promoted by Armenian and Azerbaijani scientists living in Moscow and other cities in the country.

For each of us there is no one dearer than our mother. And we all regard the homeland, our socialist homeland, as our mother. Our duty toward her is to speed up our efforts to end the tension in the Transcaucasus. There is work and restructuring for us to do.

Workers Appeal for End to Strike

*LD01600 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1430 GMT 1 Apr 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondent reports from the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast:

[M. Mamedov, identified from screen caption] The late spring has made its own adjustments to the plans of the Akhtanak Kolkhoz in the Askeranskiy Rayon. The warm days that have set in are hurrying on the agricultural workers: The sowing of fodder crops has to be completed within the optimum time-scales and there is also a lot of work in the vineyards and on the livestock farms.

The workers of the kolkhoz have called on the working people of the oblast center, the town of Stepanakert, to halt the failure to turn out for work. This appeal, which was broadcast on the oblast radio, said among other things: We workers of the Akhtanak Kolkhoz are now working hard, multiplying the wealth of our homeland. We call upon you, workers and office staff and all working people of the town of Stepanakert, also to start work and to strengthen labor discipline.

Outwardly everything seems calm in Stepanakert itself. The bakery, the dairy, and the shops are working. At the railway station trucks are being handled at a faster rate than before. Unfortunately, however, life has come to a standstill on the construction sites, although housing is one of the main problems in the town. Public transport is virtually at a halt, and many enterprises are idle on account of the failure to turn out to work. The town's industry has already got into debt to the state to the tune of several million rubles. Supplies of output to enterprises in many parts of the country have been disrupted. What will the failures to go to work bring the town, the oblast, the republic and, indeed, the country as a whole, other than losses? Clearly it is worth it for the workers of Stepanakert to heed the appeal from the agricultural workers. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government have adopted an expanded program for the social and economic development of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, but its successful fulfilment depends today primarily upon every inhabitant of the town, for the people of Stepanakert have long been renowned for their good sense and gumption, their love of work, their skill: Let them show all these qualities now in the difficult situation. [video shows urban street scenes with cars moving along a highway, women with prams and children walking in the sidewalk, distant shot of building materials being unloaded by hand from a truck; idle building site; vehicle park apparently filled with buses; street scenes]

'Common Sense' Starts To Prevail

*LD021221 Moscow World Service in English
1100 GMT 2 Apr 88*

[Text] It seems that common sense is beginning to prevail over passions. This conclusion was made by Moscow-based periodicals in their reports on the developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA says that all is calm now in Sumgait, the Azerbaijani city where the most dramatic events took place. The Armenians who left the city during the peak of ethnic disturbances are returning home. Legal proceedings have been started against more than 40 persons charged with having engaged in killings, acts of violence, and plunder.

Yesterday in Stepanakert, the administrative center of Nagorno-Karabakh, several plants and factories resumed work. However, many industrial facilities, construction sites, and public transport are still swept by absenteeism. These developments are a result of demands that the

autonomous region be transferred from Azerbaijan to Armenia. In the capital of Armenia, Yerevan, says the daily PRAVDA, life has returned to normal.

Western Press Reactions Viewed

LD021130 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—"The words 'Nagorno-Karabakh' have been present in Western press reports for several weeks now", the weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY (No. 14) writes today. "It may seem that many highly acute social, national and racial problems of the countries of Western Europe and North America, which are usually the subject of newspaper and magazine articles, have been resolved by themselves: They are now mentioned by far less".

"Public opinion polls being taken in the West indicate", the weekly points out, "that the negative image of the Soviet Union which has been cultivated in the minds of West Europeans and North Americans for decades, has been greatly shattered over the past two-three years. Changes were also perceived in the Western press reports: There was more impartiality in the coverage of everything connected with the Soviet Union".

"It appears that the publishers of some Western periodicals now seek to 'catch up on what they have missed'. Real problems of inter-ethnic relations in our country in this case serve only as a 'point of departure' for speculations, and for the imposition of a tendentious idea of the Soviet Union as a country being torn asunder by inter-ethnic contradictions. It is being asserted that it is, first of all, force that is being ostensibly counted upon for resolving them".

"Estimates in various publications and broadcasts of 'radio voices'", the weekly points out in this connection, "can be more or less categorical but the overall trend—to foster fear and stir up ethnic strife—is perceived clearly enough".

"The West, it seems, should have long become convinced from its own experience that neither fear nor intransigence do not help in solving inter-ethnic problems (one may recall if only Northern Ireland). Only a calm and sober-minded approach with due regard for the interests of all nations and nationalities can help in this matter".

Armenians Threaten Strikes

LD021325 Hamburg DPA in English 1221 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Armenians in the autonomous Soviet region of Nagorno-Karabakh intend to strike until the Soviet Government gives a clear decision. This was stated by Moscow civil rights activist Sergey Grigoryants at a press conference today. The decision could be positive or negative but the people expect a

decision. Measures taken so far for the economic and cultural promotion of Nagorno-Karabakh were received by the people there as a "mockery", Grigoryants explained. [passage omitted]

According to Grigoryants, the situation in Armenia is calm. There are no more strikes. The soldiers have mostly been withdrawn, a worker on the unofficial publication GLASNOST reported; Grigoryants is the chief editor of the publication.

In Stepanakert, regional capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, Grigoryants says there are about 1,500 refugees from the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait, where at the end of February 32 people were killed during the unrest according to official sources. The refugees are now demanding approval for themselves and their families to move to Stepanakert.

Situation in Stepanakert

LD021504 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT
2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The mechanised bakery and the meatpacking and dairy products plant worked without interruptions today in Stepanakert, the centre of the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region, as in previous days, transport workers reported for work. Classes have resumed in schools after the spring holidays. In School No 3, for instance, classes were attended by 960 pupils of the total of 987. This is reported in today's issue of IZVESTIYA.

The paper's correspondent telephoned the local maternity hospital. The chief doctor Marutyan said that three boys and one girl were born during the past 24 hours. The babies and their mothers are feeling well. One of the boys weighs 5.7 kilos, something that does not happen often.

Architects have arrived from Yerevan to design a palace of culture for the town. Senior officials of the Ministries of Communications of Azerbaijan (the autonomous region is part of it) and Armenia are expected to come to organise reception of Armenian television. So the Soviet Government's decision on accelerating socio-economic development in Nagorno Karabakh is beginning to be fulfilled.

But the main question remains—How will the industrial enterprises work on Monday? This is the biggest concern of local party and government bodies. Meetings of party committees and bureaus and meetings of Communists of enterprises have been held today although Saturday is a day off and adopted decisions to resume work.

'Most' Stepanakert Workers Staying Out
PM041339 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 3 Apr 88 p 4

[Special correspondent S. Romanyuk "Reportage": "Responsibility to the Whole Country"]

[Text] Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, Azerbaijan SSR—The windows of the dilapidated "Karabakh" Hotel, the city's largest, look out on the Political Enlightenment House, a beautiful marble and concrete building. Despite the external glitter, it does not attract people. Various events take place there but, as I was told, very rarely. At any other time, there is virtually nothing for an ordinary citizen to do there. Cleaners meticulously dust windows and banisters. They polish floors. That is all.... It is incomprehensible why a city of 50,000 residents, which lacks even a Young Pioneers' House, should boast a building like this. Is this not the beginning of the suddenly exposed gap between the interests of people vested with power and the interests of those who today are in conflict with power? The situation in the city remains complex. Most factory shops in Stepanakert continue to be deserted.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Komsomol Obkom elaborated a plan of measures designed to persuade young people to return to work in the shops. Every day obkom and gorkom staffers spend most of their time at the city's enterprises. Aktiv members are talking with young people in hostels, in stores, and out in the streets.

Vladimir Akopyan, secretary of the Karabakh silk combine Komsomol organization, has a well-annotated calendar on his desk. Volodya was at the silk reeling shop at 0800 hours yesterday morning. The situation there is most complex. Azerbaijanis and Armenians man the same machines. Now it is not easy to find a common language. And Volodya must help them in this. He and Reykhan Kuliyeva, the shop's Komsomol group organizer, say the same thing: The most important point now is to think of the beloved enterprise, how to overcome the holdup, how to clear the huge debt they owe to their partners.

The tour ends at about 1000 hours. The picture is clear: Hardly any change, unfortunately. Less than half the workers are in the shops. The largest—the weaving shop—is manned by 34 out of 1,100.

Akopyan calls the aktiv together: It is necessary to call on people, to persuade them.

I conversed with Komsomol leader Karen Gulyan. The same problems. Some 70 percent of the enterprise's work force are Komsomol members. The enterprise maintains economic ties with dozens of plants in the country. This means that shops are standing idle not just in Karabakh. People have started realizing this recently—about 70 percent of workers reported for the first shift yesterday.

It so happened that I met Margarita Sarkisyan twice at the silk combine. She is the full-time secretary of the Komsomol organization in one of the shops. But in these difficult days for the city the girl donned her work overalls and took up her position at a machine. She set a worthy example which was, alas, emulated by only a few.

Margarita lives with her mother, who is a pensioner. Bluntly speaking, she needs the money. But the girl believes that this is not the main point. Something else is important—the worker's conscience.

On the very first day Margarita was met at the gate. Later on, "accidentally," in a store. Later still, in a radio repair workshop. Everyone asked her the same question: Why was she at work?

Who are these people? What are their goals? Why is their authority higher than that of some Komsomol, trade union, and party workers?

Margarita is a brave and honest girl. The interests of her people are no less valuable to her than to those who are now idly strolling the streets of Stepanakert. She realizes: The main point in today's circumstances is to be conscientious and responsible. Responsible to one's work, to the workers of the whole country.

Stepanakert Strikes 'Still On'
AU031329 Paris AFP in English 0849 GMT
3 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, April 3 (AFP)—Most firms at Stepanakert, the main town of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, are still on strike, the Communist Party's youth daily, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, reported Sunday. The report came after dissident journalist Sergei Grigorians said Saturday that Stepanakert was still strike-bound with only essential services operating.

The daily had reported Saturday that the population of Stepanakert, which has been protesting against Moscow's refusal to return the Azerbaijani region to Armenia, had begun to go back to work on Friday after a nine-day general strike. In a report apparently dating from Saturday, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA describes how members of the Communist youth movement, of Komsomols, had attempted "in homes, shops and the streets" of Stepanakert to convince people to return to work. In a local silk factory, which employs both Armenians and Azerbaijanis, such efforts by Komsomols seem to have had little effect, the paper adds. "Less than half of the work force are in the workshops...in the main weaving workshop, there are only 34 out of 1,100 workers," the paper said.

Protestors Demand Airikyan Release

AU031443 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT
3 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, April 3 (AFP)—Police dispersed 1,000 demonstrators calling for the release of jailed Armenian nationalist Paruir Airikyan in the Armenian capital Yerevan, a Soviet dissident told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Sunday. About 20 people, including a well-known painter, were detained for three hours after the protest Saturday in central Yerevan's Lenin Square, dissident Sergey Grigoryants, editor of the underground journal GLASNOST, said. The painter, Sierab Atkhatmadyan, was roughed up, he added.

Mr Airikyan, a major source for Western journalists of information on the recent unrest in Armenia, was arrested in Yerevan March 24 and indicted for "propagating false news and anti-Soviet slander." [passage omitted]

Weekly Rebuts 26 Mar Yerevan Reports

PM040927 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian
No 14, 2-8 Apr 88 (Signed to Press 31 Mar 88) p 1

[Unattributed report incorporating Yerevan dispatch by special correspondents V. Voytenko and V. Solovyev: "About Yerevan: The 'View From London' and From Yerevan"]

[Text] During the last few days of March Western radio stations paid special attention to the situation prevailing around Nagorno-Karabakh. Broadcasts by the "radio voices" repeatedly carried appeals to ensure that 26 March was the peak of mass demonstrations by Armenians. But when it became clear that no demonstrations would be held 26 March, BBC radio hastened to announce that Yerevan was allegedly "deserted as a sign of protest," and VOA carried intimidating reports about soldiers from all three categories of forces patrolling the city streets in armored personnel carriers.

On 30 March the BBC continued to claim that there was not a single person to be seen in the streets of Yerevan that weekend.

Our special correspondents V. Voytenko and V. Solovyev were in Yerevan at that time. Here is what they reported:

In contrast with Western correspondents, we can describe what we actually saw. There were indeed only a few people in the streets of Yerevan early on Saturday morning. This is understandable—26 March was a Saturday. But a little later the streets of Yerevan became livelier. Of course, bearing the situation in mind, safety precautions were taken: Reinforced militia detachments were to be seen in the streets, and part of the city center was cordoned off.

In order to supplement our personal impressions, we decided to seek comments from officials, including R. Aslanyan, chief of the Armenian SSR MVD Political Department.

"You have evidently seen for yourselves that the situation was calm on the whole. People could use all city services. As for the additional security measures, including the cordoning off of one of the central squares, Theater Square, I think that these measures were justified. Without doubting the conscientiousness of the population, we nevertheless could not rule out the possibility of provocative actions.

"According to data from the Armenian SSR MVD, breaches of the law reported on 26 March 1988 included one case of bodily harm and two traffic accidents. The figures for 27 March 1988 included one case of swindling, a case of distilling strong alcoholic beverages, and report of a missing person.

"Since the reported breaches posed no serious threat to law and order, most of the additional militia forces were withdrawn from the city on 28 March."

How did Yerevan's population respond to the situation prevailing 26 March? We put this question to G. Asatryan, chief of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Propaganda Department.

"From the emotional point of view, some people may see these safety measures as excessive. But the case in hand demanded a sober assessment of the situation. We organized special groups comprising authoritative specialists, VUZ lecturers, and cultural figures. They could have participated in the event of any discussions developing in the city streets and could have done explanatory work. But their assistance was not required."

Events in the last few days have shown that people in Armenia and Azerbaijan, realizing the danger of the conflict escalating, are displaying prudence, restraint, and patience, which naturally has an effect on the situation.

Foreign Radios Inciting Unrest

PM041141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 87
First Edition p 3

[A. Vasilkov, G. Ovcharenko article: "Instigators; Once Again About Events in and Around Nagorno-Karabakh"—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Letters continue to arrive at the editorial office in which our readers try to comprehend events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. Unanimously condemning the methods of street- or rally-brand of "democracy" and the attempts to exert pressure on the state authorities with the aid of demonstrations and strikes, the letters' authors believe, just as unanimously, that the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples cannot be blamed for what has

happened. According to their just opinion, the majority of people have been brought out onto the streets and squares by the shortcomings—which have accumulated over a number of years—in economic and social development, in internationalist education, and by ecological and other unresolved issues.

But people have appeared who tried to knock together for themselves some political capital on this emotional wave of dissatisfaction at specific shortcomings, to kindle nationalist passions, and to denigrate the process of restructuring in the country.

The prompting, the call for action that is harmful or dangerous in its consequences, or for action that is unseemly or criminal—that is how S.I. Ozhegov's dictionary of the Russian language defines the word "incitement." It is that which in our view best describes the actions of those circles and individuals abroad and within our country who are behind the events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, who are trying to kindle national discord between the fraternal peoples of the USSR, and to evoke on this basis distrust and dislike toward the processes of democratization which are taking place in the country, and toward the party and state organs and the mass media.

"We don't trust the press, you don't write the truth," such are the kind of words that correspondents of central and republican newspapers, who inform millions of people about the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] and in Armenia and Azerbaijan, have occasion to hear. Before it ends up on the page of the newspaper, every fact and every word is meticulously checked. Nevertheless there are "interpreters" of items in both republics who literally hold every line up to the light and seek out the "pro-Armenian" or "pro-Azerbaijani" subtext which is visible to them alone, and who distort the essence of what has been written. These fabrications are not concocted for their own use. They are disseminated in waiting lines and smoking-rooms, they are handed on verbally from house to house, accumulating "fresh details" as they go, and as a result they distort public opinion.

But perhaps the press is indeed distorting facts, plucking them, as the saying goes, out of thin air, thereby offending the national feelings of citizens in both fraternal republics? Let us take a look at what is arousing the ire of certain readers.

So, on 29 March one of the central newspapers published a reportage from Stepanakert which said, in particular, that "there have been distortions in the past in nationalities policy here, and distortions remain to this day, unfortunately, and they are visible to any unprejudiced person." The very same day in the Baku correspondent's office of our newspaper there were telephone calls from indignant Azerbaijanis: This assertion, they said, is unfounded, and is not confirmed by any real facts.

But it is, after all, already common knowledge that even now, as in the years of stagnation, Azerbaijan's directive organs are fettering the initiative of the NKAO's working people, that there are not enough enterprises in Nagorno-Karabakh where local young people can find a job, and that even middle-level specialists in the NKAO can be appointed only with the consent of the republic's ministries and departments, that there is a shortage not only of fiction works, but also educational literature in the Armenian language, and that the autonomous oblast's leaders have to obtain Baku's sanction for even a program for cultural links with Armenia. Do such facts really not confirm the infringement of elementary rights and interests of the bulk of the population of the NKAO?

"Can you conclusively disprove even a single announcement from TASS or the newspapers?" we asked on the streets of Yerevan, Baku, Stepanakert, and Sumgait. What we heard in response was this:

"But, after all, people are saying differently..."

Indeed they are. For instance, journalists report that: In Yerevan enterprises have returned to their normal working rhythm, everything is tranquil in Sumgait and the curfew has already been lifted there. But rumors are slithering, like snakes, from out the woodwork: There is an explosive situation in Yerevan, many people are staying away from work, in Sumgait the attacks by Azerbaijanis against the apartments of Armenian families are allegedly going on. And people are to be found who do not believe trustworthy information but rather what someone, somewhere has allegedly seen or heard.

At the Armenian SSR's Permanent Mission in Moscow to which one of us was invited for a meeting with Armenians who are resident in Moscow, nightmarish details of the disorders in Sumgait were enumerated. It was said that not dozens of people of different nationality perished there, but up to 1,000 Armenians. It was said that pro-Islamic Azerbaijanis butchered pregnant women in the maternity home and played football with babies' heads. When we tried to refute these absurd rumors, we said that 32 people had died in Sumgait and what we heard in reply was:

"That is untrue. Those are figures from the USSR Prosecutor's Office and we don't believe them. Voice of America, the BBC, and other radio stations in the West are talking about a considerably larger number of deaths in Sumgait."

Thus the names and addresses of the inciters was given. Operating stealthily, skillfully doctoring the truth, the Western radio voices are seeking to impose on their audience the old anti-Soviet theses that all the difficulties in our country are the result of the "colonial oppression" of the peoples of the union republics and autonomous formations, that clashes on everyday grounds are the result of an erroneous nationalities policy and that means that "a growth of interethnic clashes in the USSR

is inevitable for reasons of a historical, political, geographical, and economic nature." So, they claim, the "democracy" of the streets and of rallies, to which the organizers of the movement for the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia have resorted is just an innocent reaction to the encroachment upon their national rights and interests. And when it comes to upholding these rights and interests, any means are suitable—even if it means that the interests of other nations suffer and that considerable material, moral, and political damage is inflicted on the state and society. This is why, it is claimed, it is necessary to continue exerting strong pressure on state organs. Moscow, it is said, will finally realize that it is better to make concessions "rather than be renowned throughout the world as a despotic state."

We picked up this claim from a Radio Liberty broadcast. But other Western radio voices also offer similar advice on tactics and strategy. Their masters are pursuing their own interests: They hope to do away with socialism by splitting it along national lines. And while they are about it, they are also striving to denigrate the restructuring of our society and the process of its democratization. The BBC, for example, claims that supposedly "nationalism in the USSR, which has of course always existed like anywhere else in the world, has surfaced in the conditions of decentralization, de-Stalinization, and democratization."

It is evident that some of our country's ill-wishers have already had more than enough of the changes taking place in it. This is precisely why they are striving to kindle the embers of demagogical studies or provocative rumors into the bonfire of conflicts which develop in the course of revolutionary and restructuring processes. And they are doing this like all instigators, using as their tools so-called sources in our country.

As a matter of fact, one of us received a telephone call from BBC staffer Masha Slonim in London who, among other things, wanted to know this: Why is it that the number of casualties in Sumgait given by the Soviet media differs from the figure given by foreign correspondents?

We had to explain to the "naive" lady that this is the result of rumors disseminated by Western radio voices, including the BBC, using information from people who are, to put it mildly, unscrupulous and are only striving to fan dissension among nationalities.

We would like to deal in particular with one of these self-styled "figures," a self-proclaimed "spokesman" of Soviet Armenians, since his name is often mentioned nowadays in BBC, VOA, and DW programs and Western propaganda is promoting him as "fighter for national justice."

Paruir Airikyan is around 40; he has no job; he is small in stature, with a beard framing his puffy face; he usually prefers to remain in the shadows, hiding behind the backs of people he has confused. From his early youth, however, he has been engaged in fanning national dissension, pushing others along the path of crime, and ultimately he himself ended up in the dock.

The self-styled "figure" was twice tried by criminal courts for anti-Soviet activity, and a third time for bribing an official. Following his release in early 1987, Airikyan quietened down, withdrew, and took a wait-and-see stance. Now it has become clear that he never abandoned his previous intentions. The only thing he changed were his tactics—he joined the ranks of champions of democratization and glasnost. To start with, he disguised his real face by donning the mask of alleged concern for "Armenians' national interests." He started cooperating with the notorious "publisher" Grigoryants, of whom PRAVDA has already written.

This man's life story is quite similar to Airikyan's: Repeatedly tried for speculating in antiques and for antistate activity, he also camouflages himself as a champion of democracy and glasnost while in fact continuing to engage in subversive activity. Toward the end of February, for example, Grigoryants published in THE NEW YORK TIMES and the French newspaper LIBERATION an article under the provocative heading "Psychiatry and Restructuring." He shocked Western readers with fabrications claiming that 3 million perfectly healthy Soviet people are forcibly kept inside psychiatric hospitals, where they are subjected to "criminal illegal experiments in addition to the usual torture." Moreover, and with amazing brazenness, he dared to describe a world-famous Soviet psychiatrist as "a murderer upholding the right to kill illegally." The question is: How many millions of dollars or francs would the publishers of these newspaper have had to pay in damages for such slander, how many years would they or the author of such insane fabrications have had to spend in jail had this case involved events in the United States or France?! In any event they would not have gone unpunished. But they ran no risk at all by publishing the Grigoryants lampoon: It was neither the U.S. nor France, but the Soviet Union that was slandered. As a matter of fact, this was what the instigators abroad were aiming for.

S. Grigoryants also supplies the West with his fabrications about events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. In February he invited Western correspondents to his home and handed them biased material which actually contained demands for the revision of the USSR's internal borders, unobjective assessments of the situation prevailing at the time in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the NKAO, and open calls for foreign interference in our state's sovereign affairs. It was at that same "press conference" that Grigoryants, without batting an eyelid, described the number of casualties in Sumgait as given by the Soviet press a lie.

But let us turn back to Airikyan's "activity." Taking advantage of his past criminal experience, he urgently surrounded himself with nationalistically inclined people and announced his own appointment as gang leader of two nationalistic formations to which he had given pompous names. Thus, the former criminal and briber was transformed into chairman of the "Armenian Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners" and the "Association for National Self-Determination."

Perfectly well aware that he would receive no support in Armenia, let alone across the territory of our great multinational country, Airikyan was banking on protection and assistance from certain reactionary circles in the West which are interested in fanning national dissension, creating a crisis situation in Armenia and the NKAO, and weakening and undermining from within the system existing in the USSR. He shuttled between Yerevan and Moscow, supplying Western mass media with "reports" based on downright fabrications.

So, on several occasions now, Radio Liberty—which is controlled and directed by U.S. special services—has referred to this self-appointed person and to unauthorized antisocial formations like the aforementioned "Association for National Self-Determination" when beaming into the airwaves Airikyan's provocative calls to reshape national-state and national-administrative borders in the USSR, to "launch consistent struggle," to "fight for independence," to "incur any material losses," "not to fear arrests and sacrifices," to "set up a provisional government in Armenia," and even to introduce foreign troops into the republic's territory.

Approximately the same line, but couched in more diplomatic terms, was followed by the VOA with reference to its correspondent John Megli [surname as published] who used Airikyan as his "source of information" and repeated his slanderous fabrications about an "occupation regime" in Nagorno-Karabakh and the expediency of direct interference by foreign states in the USSR's internal affairs.

We can, of course, understand the interest of journalists from Western countries in obtaining news from the Soviet Union. But is it worth their while to deal with former criminals or unsavory individuals who deal in the dissemination of deliberate lies?

At this point it would be appropriate to note that people realized the antisocial nature of Airikyan's behavior even in the tense situation which developed in Armenia and the NKAO toward the end of February this year. When he tried to distribute leaflets containing hostile appeals on behalf of his "Association for National Self-Determination" in Yerevan, people in the street rapped him over the knuckles, as it were: They demanded that he should not appear in public places and should not break Soviet laws by his illegal actions.

A few days ago Armenian SSR law enforcement organs arrested P. Airikyan and some of his associates from among the most active instigators of inter-nation dissension. Their case is under investigation.

True enough, the detainees have already acquired super-numerary lawyers. One of them is that same Grigoryants. Today he is fired by the idea of setting up in the country some sort of committee in defense of his associate Airikyan. But he is already experiencing difficulties in recruiting "committee members." So Grigoryants is going all out to try to set up such a committee in the West. It seems that he is not doing all this with total disregard for selfish, mercenary interests. Grigoryants and others of his ilk are well aware that their irresponsible statements have helped to fan passions and emotions. After all, by spreading slanderous fabrications with help from Western news media—fabrications which aggravated the situation and inflated nationalist sentiments to extremes—they provoked people to embark on collective withdrawal of labor, boycott of studies at educational establishments, and actions disrupting normal life....

Instigators of all hues, while advocating glasnost in words, fear genuine glasnost most of all. This is why they prefer to act in secret, slipping provocative leaflets into mail boxes and posting them in dark corners. This is why I. Muradyan, one of the former "Karabakh" Committee's leaders, afraid that the media would sooner or later report his real rather than proclaimed goals, called on people not to watch Central Television programs or read republic or central newspapers. This is why foreign and domestic instigators reacted in such negative fashion to PRAVDA's article "Emotions and Reason," which made a harsh but politically accurate assessment of the actions not of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, as some would have it, but of those circles and individuals who dislike the great brotherhood of our country's peoples, for whom every one of our successes in the economy, in social development, and in national relations is like a stab in the heart.

Like Siamese twins, foreign and domestic instigators cannot exist without each other, and they pursue identical goals. They both dislike the system existing in the USSR. They would both like to pervert our democratization and restructuring to the point where our country's territory turns into an arena of persistent and fierce inter-nation and social conflicts. Our ideological adversaries, even though forced to camouflage themselves as democrats and champions of justice, actually reject altogether the desire and will of all sober-minded people for mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation, for the quest for sensible ways to solve pressing complex problems.

History's lessons vividly teach that any encroachments on the foundations of socialism in the USSR, of the Soviet state and social system, of the multinational unity and cohesion around the CPSU, are in vain and doomed

to failure. No ill-wishers, wherever they may be and whatever disguise they may don, are capable of hindering the renewal and further improvement of socialism, the democratic process of continuous development and strengthening of Soviet patriotism and internationalism.

Truth is truth because it will, sooner or later, permeate the souls of even those who were closing their eyes to reality only yesterday. Growing numbers of people in Armenia and Azerbaijan are heeding the voice of reason and perceiving the true import of events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. And they draw an unambiguous conclusion: This must not be repeated. No matter how much instigators of all hues would like this to happen.

Correction to Development Decision

The following correction pertains to the item "Text of Development Decision" under the general headline "Further on Nagorno-Karabakh Oblast Situation," published in the 31 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 35-38:

Page 37, column one, last paragraph, first sentence should read ...R12.4 million, R3.9 million of which... (correcting word "billion")

Ukrainian Supreme Soviet To Hold Session 18 Apr AU310948 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 19 Mar 88 p 1

["A Decree of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves to convene the Extraordinary Seventh Session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th Convocation on 18 April 1988 in the city of Kiev.

[Signed] V. Shevchenko, chairman, and N. Khomenko, secretary of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

City of Kiev, 18 March 1988

The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium announces that the following items are to be submitted to the Extraordinary Seventh Session of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet:

1—A general scheme of management for the republic's national economy.

2—The approval of decrees passed by the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Poltava Obkom Chief Assigned to New Duties

LD021815 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 2 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A plenum of the Ukrainian Communist Party Poltava Obkom today examined an organizational issue. In connection with his appointment as chairman of the USSR State Committee for the protection of nature, Comrade Morgun is released from the responsibilities of obkom first secretary. Comrade Myakota, who has worked as chairman of the Poltava Oblispolkom, has been elected first secretary of the Poltava Obkom.

Interior Minister Pelates Ministry Dismissals

LD311910 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1746 GMT
31 Mar 88

[Text] Moscow, March 31 (TANJUG)—Soviet Internal Affairs Minister Aleksandr Vlasov has told the periodical KOMMUNIST that "161,000 collaborators of the ministry were dismissed for violating discipline and the law" between 1983 and 1985.

Vlasov, who spoke about mistakes committed by the ministry, said that a process of restoration of the service's leadership bodies was under way. He pointed out that excessive personnel centralisation had been preventing the right people from taking the right posts but that this had now been corrected.

Vlasov said that the number of offences, especially cases of murder and serious hooliganism, had fallen during the last two years. Offences caused by drunks have fallen by 40 per cent over the past three years and the number of persons charged with drunkenness by a third or 4.8 million, he said.

Vlasov said that criminal offences committed by women were on the increase. Today women are guilty of 22 per cent of such crimes, compared with only 12 per cent ten years ago, he said.

Vlasov said that drug addiction continued to pose a problem, with 130,000 people having used narcotics and 52,000 of them being heavy addicts. Sixty per cent of addicts are under 30 years of age and 12 per cent are women.

Restructuring at Ministry of Internal Affairs

LD021759 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1725 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr (TASS)—Restructuring of the internal affairs organs is proceeding in an atmosphere of demanding daily party leadership, said Lieutenant General Anatoliy Anikiyev, chief of the Political Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, in a conversation with a TASS correspondent. Reports by workers and managers at meetings of labor collectives, party aktivs,

and at plenums and buro meetings of republican, kray, oblast, town, and rayon party committees and sessions and executive committee meetings of soviets of people's deputies have become the practice.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo, recalled the general, has approved regulations on political organs within the system of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. The implementation of measures elaborated in these regulations will promote the strengthening of party-political influence on the activity of the internal affairs organs for the purposes of strengthening socialist legality and law and order, and strengthening protection of the rights and legal interests of citizens.

Political work in the internal affairs organs assumes special significance today, stressed the chief of the Political Directorate at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. We cannot forget the political lessons that were taught us in the thirties and forties when the absence of the required level of democracy in Soviet society gave rise to the cult of personality, crude violation of legality, tyranny, and repressions. Political adventurers within the leadership of the internal affairs organs were guilty of crimes involving the abuse of power. The stagnation of the seventies and eighties also led to bad negative processes, including within the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was beyond criticism.

Great organizational efforts by party and local soviet bodies were required to cleanse the cadres of workers who had compromised themselves and were not trustworthy and to strengthen all services and sections of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The internal affairs organs have been supplemented by a large number of Communists and qualified specialists. The party and Komsomol core of the sections and services now makes up over 60 percent. [as received]

Life and the renewal that is revolutionary in its essence make it our duty, said Gen Anikiyev, to proceed step by step along the road of democratization and to accumulate experience in implementing and guaranteeing constitutional and political rights and freedoms.

Personnel Cuts Envisaged in Uzbek, Kirghiz

LD011842 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1750 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Tashkent, 1 Apr (TASS)—A 50-percent cut in the administrative apparatus is envisaged by general draft schemes for management of the national economy in Soviet Central Asia—Uzbekistan and Kirghizia.

The draft schemes envisage liquidation of dozens of state administration bodies and hundreds of organizations at the local level.

A TASS correspondent was told at the Uzbek Council of Ministers that the coming measures are necessitated by the radical restructuring of the economy now being

carried out in the USSR. Most enterprises have now gone over to self-financing, and consequently the functions of the central ministries and departments are undergoing a cardinal change. The upper echelons of administration are being concentrated on key questions of long-term development of industries and territories. Thus, for instance, while Uzbekistan's Agro-Industrial Committee has hitherto had more than 1,200 establishments of direct administration, under the draft scheme it is proposed to leave only 80 of these establishments.

Apas Dzhumagulov, chairman of the Kirghiz Council of Ministers, calls the overgrown administrative apparatus "a brake on solution of problems of socioeconomic development of the republic." This, he says, is all the more impermissible because beginning next year all the industry and agriculture of the republic goes over to the new conditions of management.

In Kirghizia, he announced, the number of ministries and departments will be cut by one-fourth. The level of concentration of production will be raised too: there will be a merging of small, unprofitable, and parallel functioning enterprises. Those who are not up to the requirements of the present day, who live according to old instructions and do not look for new forms of work, will leave the administrative apparatus, the chairman of the Council of Ministers stressed.

Owing to the release of nearly 10,000 staff in Frunze a republican headquarters has been set up, which is engaged in finding them jobs. They are paid a discharge benefit amounting to average monthly earnings for the whole period they are looking for work, limited to 2 months. Furthermore, when they find a new job their average monthly pay is maintained.

Dzhumagulov stresses that "anyone who wants to work will not be left without a job."

Press Criticizes Former Official's Activities

LD021346 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] At a time when many people are short of funds others have been literally swimming in riches. For example, Karimov, first secretary of the Bukhara Party Obkom, at one time included by Rashidov in the "Uzbekistan gold fund", turned out to be just like that in the most direct sense. Gold tsarist coins, watches, valuables, and cases of money were found in his possession. All of this was revealed by a special group, headed by (Telman Dlyan), senior investigator for particularly important cases within the USSR General Prosecutor's Office.

In Uzbekistan, the hero claims in a sketch published in the weekly MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, we came up against a mafia. It would have been convenient to finish with the investigation of Karimov, but that would have been a half-truth. The lives of hundreds and hundreds of

people, essentially a whole class of people who administered the republic, which had previously been suppressed, have emerged from minutes, photographs, and confessions. Even the investigators were stunned by this picture. Nothing was sacred. Orders and dachas had been sold, as well as party tickets and places in presidiums and cemeteries, jobs, and deputies' mandates—in general, everything which stood out in the period of stagnation.

The activity of Romanov, former first secretary of the Leningrad Party Obkom, was typical of the period of stagnation, said Danil Granin in a conversation with a correspondent of NEDEL'YA. Leningrad suffered damage as a result of his arbitrariness—ecological, cultural, and moral damage. Such, among other things, was the grave story of the barrage in the Gulf of Finland which he decided to have built to protect Neva from flooding. There was no ecological study for the project, much was decided on impulse without public discussion. Protests continue that the construction of the barrage has not brought results. At the same time the construction of purification buildings is lagging behind. It turns out that the barrage may be built but there's nowhere for the sewage to go!

This is just a small fragment of the reflections of the well-known writer which are headed "Showing a More Kindly Attitude".

Presidium Decree on Taxation Implemented
LD012137 Moscow TASS in English 2112 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—The decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet regulating the taxation of citizens employed in cooperatives and the issue of patents for self-employment has come into force today.

Commenting on the decree, Viktor Tur, a senior official of the USSR Finance Ministry, noted in a conversation with a TASS correspondent that "there is so far no single system of income taxation in the USSR, there are only different kinds of taxation for separate categories of people."

As the official explained, unlike in the capitalist countries, taxes in the socialist state are not the main source of income. Thus the taxes paid by the population make only eight per cent of the USSR's state budget. But after coming into the treasury they are returned then to the citizens through the public consumption funds. The Soviet population pays the following taxes: income taxes, taxes on unmarried people and small families as well as the agricultural tax. There are specific rates for each of them.

Income taxes are levied from the pay of the factory and office workers. The rate is not more than 13 per cent with a monthly pay of more than 100 roubles. Considerable benefits—up to exemption from the tax are provided for

those, whose earnings are smaller than that sum. Taxes are imposed also on the returns of production cooperatives and self-employed persons. The decree of the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which came into force today, is addressed to the latter. Viktor Tur recalled that over the past two years 23,000 cooperatives had been set up in the USSR, 14,000 of which operate in the field of every-day services and have appeared in the market of consumer goods. The number of people wishing to engage themselves in individual enterprise permanently grows. Their aggregate product is estimated at hundreds of millions of roubles. Under the new decree with earnings of up to 500 roubles a month these persons will pay taxes on a par with all the factory and office workers—a maximum of 13 per cent. With a further growth of the earnings the rate of tax increases so as to ensure social fairness in the distribution of income between the population and the state. Thus, for example, with earnings from 1,000 to 1,500 roubles a month the tax reaches 70 per cent.

"The order of assessing the rate of pay for a patent for individual enterprise will become more flexible and democratic, reflecting the conditions in various regions of the country," Tur said. Earlier they were fixed by the governments of the union republics, now the local soviets of the people's deputies will have that right.

Mass Legalization of Books Demonstrates Glasnost
LD011611 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT
1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 1 TASS—Vladimir Solodin, member of the Collegium of the Chief Administration for the Protection of State Secrets in the press under the USSR Council of Ministers, has described the mass "legalisation" of the books, which were recently "closed" to the readers, as a striking manifestation of growing openness and the drive for more democracy in Soviet society. Vladimir Solodin chairs the inter-departmental commission, which was set up a year ago, for transferring books by Soviet and foreign authors from the so-called "special stocks" to the general use stocks.

Addressing a briefing for Soviet and foreign newsmen at the NOVOSTI press agency today, Solodin said that by the time the commission was set up the USSR had nearly 6,000 titles of books closed to free access, above all for some or other political reasons. Today nearly 4,000 publications have already been examined and nearly 3,500 of them have been returned to the stocks of general use. This work is being done intensively and is to be completed by November this year. Soviet libraries have received and will, in their turn, make available to the readers works by Bukharin, Rykhov, Chernov, Rozengolts and many other unlawfully repressed figures, victims of the period of Stalin's personality cult.

On the other hand, the list of "open books" now includes memoirs by Kerenskiy, the prime minister of the provisional government, cabinet minister Milyukov, cossack

General Krasnov and anarchist Savinkov. We shall remember, Solodin noted, that in publishing those books in the twenties, the party of the victorious proletariat was sure of the justice and strength of its ideas and was not afraid of counter-arguments of its political opponents.

Works by Ivan Shmelyov and Yevgeniy Zamyatin, men of letters whose works were not published for a long time now, are also being made available to the readers. "Emigre" poems by Aleksandr Galich and Iosif Brodskiy are being published. Only provocative, openly nationalist and anti-Semitic books, books calling for war and violence, pornography have been left in the special stocks, Solodin said.

The newsmen had an opportunity to see in the foyer of the NOVOSTI press agency a unique collection of Muscovite Vyacheslav Maryash, who gathered more than 5,000 books, booklets, pamphlets and the same number of periodicals published in Russia from 1917 to the early thirties. Answering the question of newsmen why people in the political entourage of Lenin occupy such a big place in his collection, the bibliophile said: "The comparison of the arguments by the leader and his opponents gives in broad relief an impression of the most important period of our history, about which we, in real fact, know so little."

Turkmen Murderers' Sentencing Reported

PM011143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 88
Second Edition p 2

[Correspondent M. Volkov report under the "Follow-up" rubric: "After the Verdict"—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] On 28 December last year PRAVDA reported the heinous murder of Khalima Dzhorayevna Rozybayeva, who was involved in mortal combat against organized crime and corruption. The tragic death of the instructor from Chardzhou Party Obkom brought pain to thousands of hearts. The PRAVDA editorial office and the newspaper correspondent's office in Turkmenistan are receiving numerous letters. Readers from various cities and villages in the country ask: How could such a thing have happened, who is to blame, what measures are being taken in the oblast?

Ashkhabad-Chardzhou—"The shameful murder of an ardent fighter for truth in Turkmenistan inflicts a deep wound on every honest person. Khalima is our pain and our conscience," Militia Major Adovletshin cabled from Volgograd. "This was the result of the fact that so far we have been unable to create everywhere an atmosphere of firm order and high discipline—the main conditions of restructuring."

"V. Rebrik, secretary of the Chardzhou Party Obkom, is correct in his assessment of the situation," war veteran Colonel G. Ladnyy, retired, writes from Dnepropetrovsk. "The time has come for us to answer the acute

question: It's either us or them! Resolute measures are necessary. Yet we often continue the practice of shifting leaders who have compromised themselves from one position to another. I was told by an experienced cadre worker that this practice continues because someone who has made a mess of things and is well informed about the 'trespasses' by more respectable comrades could 'take them with him' unless he is placated with another position."

"The mortal blow to Khalima is a blow against our restructuring, against all of us Soviet people," the Zhuravlev family wrote from Cheboksary, "and we demand that our law enforcement organs to double and treble their efforts to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again." This same idea is expressed by war veterans D. Kutafin (Barnaul) and V. Kolomentsev (Leningrad), CPSU member S. Altukhov (Poltava), reader I. Panomarchuk (Lithuanian SSR), and many others.

In all fairness, it has to be said that law enforcement organs took an uncompromising stance in this case. Yu. Zhurkin, USSR deputy minister of internal affairs, informed the editorial office that the report "Unbending Khalima" was examined by the ministry's Collegium and that the causes of the gross violations of socialist legality and serious shortcomings in the Turkmen SSR MVD's work with cadres were investigated on the spot. Major General P. Volkhin and A. Achilov, deputy chief of the Chardzhou Oblispolkom's Internal Affairs Administration, were dismissed from the internal affairs organs for lack of principledness and for their patronage and protection of Soltanov. Major General V. Grib and Colonel N. Anokhin were demoted in rank. A number of leadership workers were severely reprimanded.

Republican Deputy Prosecutor N. Brodnitskiy reported that it was decided to relieve Chardzhou City Prosecutor R. Seyitayazov of his duties. Sh. Zhavliev, prosecutor from the Oblast Prosecutor's Office Investigations Section, was dismissed, while Oblast Prosecutor B. Kader was severely reprimanded. Kh. Rakhmanov, chief of the Chardzhou Party Obkom Administrative Organs Department, who—according to testimony from Party Obkom Bureau Member F. Nikhezin—was notified by Khalima Dzhorayevna of the open threats made by Soltanov 3 days before the murder, was also relieved of his duties.

Readers are also unanimous that people like Soltanov, Dzhepbarov, and others of that ilk could not have prospered for such a long time without the patronage of the leaders of local party and soviet organs. It is hard to disagree. "Your article about the brutal murder of Kh. Rozybayeva, a person of truly crystal-clear honesty, agitated and shocked me deeply," Militia Colonel O. Khvorov, former chief of the Chardzhou Oblispolkom's Internal Affairs Administration, says in a letter to PRAVDA. "But the facts reported by the newspaper

were notified to members of the party Obkom Bureau and R. Khudayberdiyev personally in my reports several years ago. What do I mean?

"I reported to the obkom that internal affairs organs were employing 143 persons from among the closest relatives of leaders of the Internal Affairs Administration and of party and soviet organs, mainly natives of the same Deynaukskiy, Farabskiy, and Chardzhouskiy Rayons, and this was later brought to light by Khalima Rozybayeva. People with criminal records were being recruited. An example is provided by the son of Ya. Bekiyev, chief of the Internal Affairs Administration's Struggle Against Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Speculation Department. Crimes were being concealed from official records, 250 cases were closed for fabricated reasons."

O. Khvorov, now working as senior lecturer at the Barnaul Secondary Specialized School for Training USSR MVD Senior Staff, goes on to write that, unfortunately, he received no support at the time either from the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee or the USSR MVD. This is why he was unable to expose the true faces of some of the oblast leaders. After 6 months of work as chief of the Internal Affairs Administration, he started being persecuted: He was severely reprimanded and had his service record endorsed, there were anonymous letters and inspections, there were even provocations. "I realized," he goes on, "that in these circumstances I could lose my party card, or I could even end up behind bars. I was forced to request a transfer."

The editorial office mailbag contains quite a few denunciatory letters. Like, for example, the statement by Khalima Dzhorayevna's younger sister Zuleyka Dzhorayevna Rozybayeva, recently appointed instructor at the Chardzhou Party Gorkom. She refers to errors committed during the investigation of the case of Khalima's murder, and the court confirmed this.

"Toward the end Khalima was working to exhaustion," Zuleyka Dzhorayevna writes. "She was actively involved in exposing a series of party workers and rayon prosecutors, and ended up in disgrace. Party Obkom First Secretary Khudayberdiyev was sharp with her, interrupting her midway through what she had to say. She used to return home in total distress after her meetings with him..."

Republican Deputy Prosecutor Sh. Khodzhamberdiyev, who was public prosecutor at the trial in connection with Kh. Rozybayeva's murder, is convinced that Soltanov Senior was the main culprit in that case. It was he who organized the murder of someone who fought for the triumph of truth until her last breath. He involved three young people in the affair: his son, who became an accomplice, and Khudaykulov and Shammyev, who were the direct executors. Had it not been for him, these people would have probably never committed such a serious crime.

The Criminal Cases Collegium of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Court passed the following sentences: Kh.S. Soltanov—15 years deprivation of liberty, the first 5 years to be served in prison; B.Kh. Soltanov—10 years deprivation of liberty to be served in an intensified correctional labor colony; A.D. Khudaykulov—death by firing squad; Ch. Shammyev—15 years deprivation of liberty to be served in an intensified correctional labor colony.

And so, the court has passed sentence. But our readers, in their letters to the editorial office, demand that Col Soltanov's patrons in local party and soviet organs be exposed and called to account. Indeed, how could Soltanov evade party punishment all these years? So far the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee has not replied to this question, even though it was raised with adequate clarity in the report "Unbending Khalima."

Economic

Katushev, Malkevich Address Commerce Congress
LD200955 Moscow TASS in English 0728 GMT
20 Feb 88

[Text] Moscow February 20 TASS—The democratization of management of foreign economic relations and the development of new forms of economic cooperation with other countries call for profound changes in the work of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This was pointed out in reports made at a congress of that Soviet public organization held here Friday.

Vladislav Malkevich, chairman of the presidium of the chamber, said: "The main direction in the work of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the deepening of ties with industrial enterprises with a view to helping them in their operations in the foreign markets. A consultation centre of the chamber is in the process of formation. It fulfilled the first 100 orders of Soviet industrial enterprises. The consultation centre is to become a major foreign trade cost-accounting organization whose purpose would be the development of new forms of cooperation, primarily in the sphere of technological exchange".

Among the inter-branch problems Malkevich made special mention of the chamber's participation in the drawing up of long-term programs of economic development of separate regions of this country. In the opinion of the chamber, its role consists in drawing foreign firms into that process and determining concrete spheres and projects of mutually advantageous partnership.

A decision has been taken in the USSR on the setting up of associations of business cooperation with foreign countries. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry was assigned the task of coordinating their activities. Work is under way for creating an association of this kind jointly

with West Germany. In the future associations of business cooperation will be created jointly with Italy, India, Scandinavian countries and Asia-Pacific countries.

Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of external economic relations, pointed out that the growth of the number of organizations in this country that had been given the right to conduct operations in the foreign market called for the creation of an effective system of the exchange of foreign economic information between them.

The congress discussed and adopted changes in and amendments to the rules of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, elected its steering and working bodies.

Minister Describes Power Supply Situation
PM241601 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Mar 88 First Edition p 2

[Interview with A. Mayorets, USSR minister of power and electrification, by V. Shilov: "Kilowatt Shortage"; date and place not given—first paragraph is SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] As already reported, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo has examined questions of implementing the USSR's Power Program and developing the electricity supply industry. Serious observations were made to a number of ministries and departments. What practical conclusions is the staff in the sector—the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification—drawing from the discussion taking place? Minister A.I. Mayorets talks about this at our correspondent's request.

[Shilov] Anatoliy Ivanovich, it was noted at the Politburo session that a number of important tasks in the Power Program have not been fulfilled satisfactorily. What are the reasons for the lag?

[Mayorets] The main reason is that, unfortunately, the planned pace for commissioning new power-generating capacities and retooling has not been reached. In order to somehow overcome shortages in power-generating capacities, we have been forced to exploit the thermal power stations in operation with enormous overloads. We often have to postpone planned repairs of equipment, reconstruction, and replacement of antiquated equipment. The longer the commissioning of new units takes, the more spare parts are required for old units. Only 70-80 percent of the required spare parts have been supplied. If emergency measures are not taken, then in the present 5-year plan we will be able to replace only one-fourth of old equipment due to be decommissioned. What will the growing lag lead to? The amount of equipment which has outgrown its useful life has tripled in comparison to the last 5-year plan.

There is another extremely acute problem. Ecological criteria have become much more rigid. We are agreed on this. Nature should really be preserved. But equipment which would satisfy the requirements for conserving nature sufficiently is seriously lacking. Boilers for burning off low-grade fuel, dust- and gas-removing apparatus, power gas turbines, and steam and gas installations are particularly lacking.

In our opinion, machine building institutes and enterprises under the Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building and the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building are taking an intolerably long time to construct nature conservation equipment—membrane water treatment technology and fuel-efficient installations. Through the fault of the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, the automation of technical processes at power plants is lagging behind. All this is holding back the fuel balance restructuring in favor of solid fuels, notably by burning low-grade coals. The lag in the production of hydroelectric plants for small GES's, reversible hydraulic turbogenerator units for pump storage GES's, and high-pressure active turbines which lower the relative cost of capacities has not been overcome. The list of our complaints against the suppliers of electrical equipment, as you see, is long, and it could be continued.

Our present difficulties are dictated by this. Now the power workers have retooling and reconstruction work to do at 158 power stations and 163 heat and power supply system facilities. The material and technical supply situation is not entirely clear. Thus the S. Ordzhonikidze machine building plant in Podolsk, the "Krasnyy Kotelshchik," "Leningradskiy Metallicheskiy Zavod," and "Kharkovskiy Turbinnyy Zavod" associations, and the Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building production associations are refusing to draw up contracts with power stations for the delivery of parts and units this year with a total value of R23.5 million. The "Krasnyy Kotelshchik" association plans provide for a delivery shortfall of more than 2,000 tonnes of boiler pipes. Repair work to 110 water heaters and 25 turbines is threatened with disruption. Now the plan is taking shape for commissioning power-generating capacities next year. A study of it with the Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building and the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry enterprises has shown that the machine builders are promising to guarantee the delivery of only 79.5 percent of equipment required in time to meet installation schedules. This means that the commissioning of units at the Zuyevskaya and Surgut GRES's and the Ulyanovsk and Lipetsk TETS' will be delayed. All this will make it even more difficult to supply the national economy and the country's population with electricity and heating.

In this connection the restructuring of technical and production policy in the electrotechnical industry and in power and chemical machine building is of fundamental importance. We expect decisive measures to be taken to

increase the production of modern power-generating equipment. It should come to our facilities in the form of finished technical consignments which require no additional work in the place where they are installed. One of the paramount tasks is to organize in-house servicing of power supply components and electrical machinery by the producing plants. They intend to strive persistently to stabilize, and in the future reduce prices for the power equipment produced.

I should admit that we power and electrification personnel permitted vital errors in organizing the reconstruction of existing capacities and the construction of new ones. Because of the limited capital investments allotted, the ministry has been forced to lower the level of construction undertakings, which is now half the normative level. This is why there have been overloads, emergencies, and rushed work, with the negative consequences of these phenomena, in the year they were to be commissioned. To meet the Power Program schedule the Ministry of Power and Electrification and the Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation actually has to double the volume of construction and installation work 1989-1990. But a significant proportion of our construction organizations' resources continues to be diverted to constructing facilities for other sectors. I am convinced that we must overcome this dissipation of contracting potential. If we do not, we will not achieve priority status and development in the power industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to dwell particularly on the problems of hydroelectric power. The pace of its development lags behind the Power Program targets. An underestimation of water resources in the country's fuel-energy balance is a factor here. Over 15 years the portion of capital investments in the development of this subsector has been halved. The powerful potential of hydro-engineering organizations was switched over to constructing other national economic facilities. Last December a decision was taken on the necessity to eliminate the slant permitted. The 13th 5-Year Plan envisages commissioning three times the new hydroelectric power capacities expected in the present 5-year plan. The growth of hydroelectric power will be constant in the future. Electricity produced at GES's is the cheapest. The economic effect of utilizing the country's GES's in 1995 will exceed R5 billion. In constructing new hydroelectric power facilities we will strive as far as possible to take into account nature conservation requirements.

[Shilov] Of course, the development of the electricity supply industry requires a complex, intersectoral approach. The problems which you talked about should undoubtedly be examined and resolved urgently. But what is being done within the limits of the possibilities of the power workers themselves? What reserves do you see here?

[Mayorets] First and foremost, we need to improve the equipment capacity to the optimum degree and bring the new capacities up to the projected level. Last year, as is

known, there was a drop in the production of electricity at AES's, which were undergoing careful technical inspection. In order to compensate for the losses, the power stations produced 44.2 billion kilowatt-hours above target. The introduction of a new incentive system has assisted in raising power production efficiency. The efficiency coefficient of the established power station capacity was adopted as the basic criterion for assessing work in the power industry. This stimulated the aspiration to improve equipment performance. The real increase in the operating capacity of existing units over the last 2 years is equivalent to the annual increase in capacity through new construction. This has enabled the country's power supply to be stabilized and the standard voltage of the USSR Unified Power Grid to be firmly maintained.

The sector's contracting collectives have ensured the commissioning of powerful new power units at nuclear, thermal, and hydroelectric power stations. Last year 45 power units started operation, including "million-kilowatts" at Balakovo, Zaporozhskaya, and Khmel'nitskaya AES', major power units at the Surgut GRES-2, and powerful district heating units at the Moscow, Leningrad, and Minsk TETS'. A new high-voltage power transmission line carrying 750-1150 kilovolts has been successfully assimilated. Work continues on the unique 1,500-kilovolt, hyper-long, direct-current power transmission line between Ekibastuz and the center. Around 100,000 km of rural power supply networks have been commissioned. Plans for constructing housing and social and consumer facilities have been fulfilled for the first time in the recent period.

We realize that essentially doubling the pace of construction and installation work requires a decisive increase in the capacities of contract organizations. Two and a half times more resources than last year have been allocated for these purposes this year. The "Energoproekt" State Planning and Research Association has been formed to radically improve design and research work in the sector. A new system has been set up in the organization of planning repair work at power stations. The operators have obtained the right to take a more active part in determining both the quality and the timetable for fulfilling repair work. A 5-year program has been elaborated and approved to eliminate restrictions on the capacity of existing power stations.

[Shilov] Anatoliy Ivanovich, in addition to increasing capacities and improving stations' work, it is economically important to establish in economic practice a regime for the rational utilization of power resources. We are very wasteful here, it seems...

[Mayorets] At a CPSU Central Committee Politburo session the necessity for a strict policy of energy saving in all spheres of the economy has particularly been stressed. This primarily concerns ensuring a substantial reduction in the energy-intensiveness of the national product. The reserves for this are quite large. The relative expenditure

of electricity for producing electric steel, for example, can be reduced by a factor of 1.5, synthetic rubber—by a factor of more than 2, and so on. There have been huge losses in the housing and utilities sector. No fewer than 60 million gigacalories of heat are overexpended annually for heating housing, mainly because of the huge losses in heat supply networks. The fact is that the pipes for the heating supply networks do not have an anti-corrosion protection, heat insulation is insufficient, and there are not enough means for telemetering and remote control, automation, and diagnostics. It remains to be added that around half of the country's secondary power resources are not being utilized—which is equivalent to a loss of 20 million standard tonnes of fuel per annum. Or this example: A switch to modern lighting and household appliances everywhere would facilitate electricity savings equivalent to a year's production at the Zaporozhskaya AES. The vast consumption of electricity due to the excessive materials-intensiveness of output in this country is economically unjustified.

Finally, the cost of mismanagement is extremely high. According to figures from the State Inspectorate for Power Engineering Control, over the last year 5.5 billion kilowatt-hours or 27.5 million gigacalories have been wasted. Appeals to conserve electricity and heating have long been heard, but they have been of little practical use. Saving begins with metering, but there are not enough technical means for this. Only one in ten consumers is fitted today with devices for metering thermal energy. The Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems bears responsibility to a significant degree for the uncontrolled expenditure of power resources, because it clearly underestimates the national economic significance of producing metering apparatus.

The low level of economic interest among working collectives and individual workers also does nothing to assist the cultivation of thrift. In most sectors energy represents only 2-3 percent of the prime costs of production, and the bonuses paid for saving energy resources are insignificant. According to the Ministry of Power and Electrification, tariffs are needed for electricity and thermal power which would be more effective in promoting its rational use. It is important to accelerate as far as possible the creation and introduction of technical and consumer equipment corresponding to the best world achievements in terms of energy characteristics. The cheapest and most accessible source of power is saving it.

[Shilov] How is the power industry's work being restructured in the new conditions of economic management?

[Mayorets] The sector's enterprises are being prepared for the switch to full economic accountability and self-financing. To allow fine-tuning of the basic elements of the new economic mechanism, the system has been introduced since January in seven associations, in which one-fifth of the country's total electricity production is concentrated. The program for switching power industry

enterprises and organizations to full economic accountability has been approved. Sector commission sessions have examined questions involved in introducing new regulations governing economic activity in power system networks and production and repair enterprises.

Among the problems which still remain to be resolved, I would single out ensuring associations' economic stability. There is still no precise cause and effect tie between efficiency coefficient and profit. The size of funds, as it happens, depends not so much on collectives' good work as on hydrometeorological conditions, the level of energy consumption, and the structure of the fuel consumed. For example, power loss due to the systematic deterioration in the quality of coal exceeds R600 million annually. According to the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the necessity has arisen to reexamine the wholesale prices of power coal and to make them directly dependent on the quality of the fuel, in other words, to bring them into line with the cost to the consumer. It is essential to take into account that the economics of power enterprises fluctuates because of "mild" or "frosty" winters. This means that it is expedient to set up a procedure which allows the level of profit deductions to the state budget to be adjusted according to changes in the hydrometeorological conditions. With this aim in mind, a special contingency reserve should be set up as part of the ministry's centralized fund. In our view, it would be economically logical to grant associations the right, by agreement with consumers, to introduce contract supplements to (or deductions from) the tariff for electricity and heating for providing a reliable power supply. The new economic mechanism should vigorously stir working collectives' initiative and ensure an inseparable tie between the wage and the final results of labor.

Scientific

Space Official Comments on 'Mir' Mission
LD010533 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 31 Mar 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov have been working aboard the Mir complex for 100 days. At the moment, it is still difficult to say whether they have covered a third or only a quarter of the way. The work and life of the pilots in orbit frequently causes changes in the program drawn up on earth. Yet, Titov and Manarov have spent 100 days in space, and no special changes have had to be introduced into the plans outlined on earth. [video shows V.D. Blagov, deputy head of the flight mission—identified by screen caption—being addressed by unidentified interviewer]

[Interviewer] During the 100 days that Manarov and Titov have spent in space, there has been just one dynamic [dinamicheskii] operation—a space walk. Why are there so few such dynamic operations? What are they engaged in the rest of the time?

[Blagov] Such an operation requires a great deal of work; much time is needed for preparation. One has to have a very serious purpose, if such a high price is to be paid. A space walk means to us approximately 6 work days. The rest of the time, the members of the crew work inside the station, carrying out various experiments. Perhaps the work in space seems unusual to some people, but as far as I am concerned, this is an everyday, normal, real job that is sometimes monotonous, at other times interesting, and from time to time involves risks. Every day brings a certain amount of information which is immediately received by scientists. They begin to process it immediately.

[Interviewer] This information is forming a direction in science. Unfortunately, there is another point of view concerning space work. Quite recently, I read an article saying that it is not necessary to spend such enormous material resources on the development of space and space flights; it would be better to spend this cash on tackling our problems here on earth.

[Blagov] For example, what about seasonal changes on the earth's surface? One can see from space where there is no snow anymore, or where there are still reserves of moisture in the form of snow, or where there is still a great deal of ice and where it has started melting, or where one can begin sowing, or where grain is ripe and can be harvested. All this can be seen from space. Space technology can provide this information. Space technology and the profession of the cosmonaut can also tackle the earth's problems, yield profits and improve people's living standards, and develop the national economy, especially technology. This is a very important point. Perhaps people wonder why the flights are so prolonged. I think that long flights are still necessary.

'Project Phobos' Mission to Mars Outlined

*LD011806 Moscow World Service in English
0310 GMT 1 Mar 88*

[From the "Update" program of answers to listeners' questions, with Boris Belitskiy]

[Text] [Announcer] Our first question today comes from Mr K. Sanderson in Northumberland, Great Britain. He's heard about Soviet plans for a Mars exploration this year and would like to know more details about this.

[Belitskiy] Well, in July, the Soviet Union plans to launch two spacecraft in the direction of Mars, a project involving even more sophisticated experiments than those carried out during the highly successful mission to Halley's Comet a couple of years ago. Preparations for the mission are now in their final stage. Models of the

spacecraft and their systems are being tested in conditions simulating those the spacecraft are expected to encounter. As of today the countdown for the mission is exactly on schedule. After a flight of 200 days, the probes launched from the Baykonur Cosmodrome are to go into orbit around Mars. This orbit is then, by two consecutive maneuvers, to be changed so that it practically coincides with that of the planet's natural satellite Phobos. It's Phobos that is the main objective of the mission which, however, has several other objectives as well, and the whole mission has been named Project Phobos.

[Announcer] How is the study of Phobos to be conducted?

[Belitskiy] By using their low-thrust engines, the spacecraft are practically to hover right over the surface of Phobos. And the techniques of remote sensing by laser beams and ion fluxes should make it possible to analyse the mass and isotope composition of the Martian soil. These experiments, called Lima and Dion, have no precedents in space research. Besides this, there are to be many new conventional planetological experiments, including the taking of close-up television pictures and direct soil investigations by (?landers).

[Announcer] I believe considerable international cooperation is planned in this project.

[Belitskiy] Yes, the program of the mission includes contributions in both ideas and hardware from scientists in 12 countries and the European Space Agency.

'Astron' Observatory 'Still Functioning'

*LD010651 Moscow in English to North America
2200 GMT 31 Mar 88*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] It is now 5 years that the Soviet unmanned astrophysical observatory Astron has been operating in earth orbit. To tell us about this unique research instrument, which has been gathering valuable data about distant space, here is our science correspondent Boris Belitskiy. [passage omitted on description of Astron by Vyacheslav Balebanov, a deputy director of the Space Research Institute]

[Belitskiy] Five years later, the observatory is still functioning, and observations can be conducted with all its instruments. A vast number of distant objects have been studied with the help of Astron's instruments. Lately these studies have included observations of the supernova that exploded in the Larger Magellanic Cloud. Astron has sent back good pictures showing the chemical composition of the remnants of that star. The pictures also reveal the higher rate of expansion of the envelope that formed around the supernova.

During these 5 years, Astron has been used for 585 observation sessions, and these have provided a wealth of new information about distant stars and gas nebulae. It has, for example, been possible to record the swift flares of stars sometimes lasting mere seconds. Some

stellar atmospheres have been found to contain fairly high contents of heavy metals. Some stars even have over 100 times more lead, tungsten, and uranium than has our sun. These anomalies in chemical composition seem to point to yet unknown nuclear reactions in stars. Astron has also studied dozens of galaxies, and in these, too, its telescopes have detected hitherto unobserved features. Galaxies are, of course, gigantic formations, each consisting of billions of stars. Their lifetime is so great that it's impossible to trace the evolution of an individual galaxy. Therefore, some idea of their evolution can be formed by comparing the characteristics of galaxies of different ages. Here, too, observations in the ultraviolet have yielded some totally unexpected results. Many galaxies earlier considered similar have turned out to be quite dissimilar. These differences, traceable to their age and activity, may provide new insights into laws governing the evolution of galaxies and the structure of the universe. Astron has thus served science very well and has been in orbit for a period several times longer than its planned service life. What next? Back to Dr Balebanov.

[Balebanov in Russian fading into English translation] Two new astrophysical observatories are to be launched this year. One is to study hard, that is, highly penetrating, X-rays and the other, soft gamma radiation. This is a different spectral range than that of the telescopes aboard the Kvant module, which has been added to the Mir orbital space station. This year is also to see the launching of a gamma telescope in the hard energy range, the energies of a major thermal nuclear explosion. Its purpose will be to investigate the supernova whose emission spectrum is moving toward harder energy. Soviet scientists are preparing these new space observatories in cooperation with their colleagues in France, Bulgaria, Poland, and Denmark.

Military

General Yerminev Interviewed on Statutory Order
PM231129 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
19 Mar 87 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General V. Yerminev, chief of a directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by unnamed "our correspondent" under heading "Good Intentions and Reality"; date and place not given—first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] Work to establish statutory order acquires special importance in resolving the tasks now facing the Army and Navy and in fundamentally improving military discipline. But KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's mail attests to the fact that far from everywhere does the tenor of military life yet accord with statutory requirements. At our correspondent's request, Lieutenant General V. Yerminev, chief of a directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, comments on readers' letters.

[Yerminev] The mail is extensive, but I should like to begin with a letter from Colonel Tsapuyuk from the Central Asian Military District. "The question of how it is necessary to bring the tenor of life and daily existence in every unit strictly into line with the requirements of the statutes is not new," Stepan Vasilyevich writes. "But today its solution must be approached in a new way. Many servicemen do not actually know the statutes. In my view a new method of teaching the statutes is needed...."

It seems to me that the officer has touched on an important problem. A vague, approximate knowledge of the statutes gives rise to a style and method of work which contradict their spirit.

To assert statutory order in the unit or on the ship, the commander himself must first of all have a firm knowledge of the statutes and achieve the same knowledge from his subordinates. I think we should begin by improving the methods of teaching the statutes.

It must be said that much valuable methodological material has been accumulated in the process of restructuring, including material promoting improvement of the system for studying the statutes. For instance, the method of so-called study and training charts, making it possible to reduce the time taken to assimilate statutory provisions, is worthy of attention.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] This is probably particularly important where the foundations of conduct in keeping with military norms are laid—in the military academies and training subunits....

[Yerminev] Undoubtedly. After all, a young officer or sergeant, on arriving in a unit, resolves questions connected with organizing and performing service in the way in which he was taught at the academy or training subunit and asserts the same internal order which surrounded him there. He asserts it by the same methods and means used by his former commanders. Consequently, the demand that all military training establishments, ensign and warrant officer schools, and training centers should be models of statutory order and be distinguished by precision in organizing combat and political training and internal service has deeper meaning than might seem at first glance. Unfortunately, far from all our VUZ's are a model of this kind. Checks carried out last year and this year at a number of military academies of the Ground Forces, Air Force, and Air Defense Forces attest that order there does not always accord with statutory requirements. Is that not the source of the difficulties encountered in the establishment of some young officers? They simply do not have a heightened awareness of various deviations from the statutes' prescriptions because they grew accustomed to these deviations while they were cadets. As is well known, it is hard to rectify distorted notions of military order.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Especially since in a number of units, readers write, the organization of the personnel's service and life is not distinguished by its high standard. This is stated in particular in the letters from Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhukovskiy from the Volga Military District, Major A. Kovalenko from the Far East Military District, and Major A. Strokach from the Ural Military District....

[Yermin] Each of these letters, as a rule, touches on one particular problem. In particular, on reading the letters from the above-mentioned authors you reach the conclusion that one of the main reasons for the poor results of efforts to establish statutory order is the insufficient attention paid by senior commanders and chiefs to improving the style of work of their subordinate officers. In work with them, one fundamental principle is often forgotten: The chief teaches his subordinates. Here is an example: For 18 months, Major General V. Gerasimenko, former formation commander, did not take a single class with his subordinate officers to examine questions connected with introducing and maintaining statutory order and organizing and performing guard duty.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] A number of letters from drafted servicemen touch on the following problem: Some commanders make strict demands on their subordinates when it is a case of duties, yet they disregard the statutes' requirements when it is a case of servicemen's rights and needs.

[Yermin] The organization of the troops' service and life in strict accordance with the statutes' requirements has nothing in common with what is sometimes observed where there are various deviations from established rules. Exceptions, especially if they affect people's interests and encroach on their rights, can cause serious harm to the cause, although they seem to be being made in the interests of order. It is not restrictions under the guise of the struggle for order but unconditional implementation of all provisions of the statutes, including those affecting servicemen's rights, which is the most reliable path to establishing military order in the unit and on the ship.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The mail contains many letters about so-called bearers of responsibility. As is well known, the statutes make no provision for them. What can you say on this subject?

[Yermin] Let us turn again to the statute for the internal service of the USSR Armed Forces. It states that the unit, ship (or subunit) commander bears personal responsibility to the Communist Party and the Soviet Government for the constant combat and mobilization readiness of the unit, ship (or subunit) entrusted to him. He must have a comprehensive knowledge of their real state and take every step to increase their combat and mobilization readiness. Within the framework of the power invested in him—again, the statute emphasizes this—the commander must act independently. Thus, if he believes that with a view to maintaining order and organization

and increasing combat readiness, it is essential that there be some additional forces in the unit, on the ship (or in the subunit) in addition to the daily duty detail, then that is his right. That these additional forces should not usurp the daily detail and the relevant commanders and chiefs is another matter.

At the same time, I should like to note that no additional measures to maintain statutory order will be required if each person at his place does what he is supposed to do honestly and conscientiously. The officer, ensign, or warrant officer must serve to the extent required by the interests of combat readiness. He must not simply be there but must give all his efforts, knowledge, and experience to fulfillment of the tasks facing the subunit, unit, or ship. Such is his profession.

I venture to assure you that the appointment of so-called bearers of responsibility is by no means a universal practice. Where the efforts of commanders, staffs, and party and Komsomol organizations are ensuring a high standard of military discipline, where service has been organized strictly according to the statute, this question has been eliminated.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Timoshin, Colonel V. Velichko, retired, Reserve Lieutenant Colonel V. Vladimirov, Ensign N. Kislov, Senior Lieutenant A. Nikonenko, and other readers are concerned that the role of junior commanders—sergeants and petty officers—is still only feeble in organizing service and daily life in units and on ships....

[Yermin] Well, it must be admitted that in the prevailing system for establishing statutory order in units and on ships, not all links work as one would like. That includes the very important link closest to the soldiers, that is, the junior commanders. Why is this happening?

In my view, it is occurring largely because in some places the service position of sergeants and petty officers is equated with the position of privates on the daily duty detail, on fatigue duty, and so forth. The usurping of junior commanders has become a widespread practice. For instance, who issues all kinds of commands from the subunit? Who sends sick men to the medical center and men who have been discharged to the regiment duty officer? No, not the company duty officer—not the sergeant, as the statute prescribes—but at the very least an ensign or warrant officer, or even an officer. Who gives permission for a soldier to be discharged? Once again, the officer and not the detachment commander.

How to change this practice? The solution would seem to be simple: placing the junior commander in conditions in which he could make full use of his statutory rights and duties. But is he always ready for such independence? Unfortunately not always. We must first of all raise the competence of the sergeants and petty officers themselves. Here it is a matter for their immediate commanders and chiefs.

For their part, an unobjective approach toward this category of servicemen can frequently be observed, assessments are too high, and their practical fulfillment of statutory requirements and their attitude toward service are not considered. Yet lack of exactingness ultimately leads to the point where junior commanders themselves have a poor knowledge of the statutes, are not guided by them in daily practice, and tolerate deviation from them. The circle is thus closed.

In addition, not everyone has the ability to teach and educate people. Unfortunately, this is frequently not taken into account by the military commissariat and troop officers when sending young servicemen to training units and schools for training them as junior commanders.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Captains L. Pekhotnik (Carpathian Military District) and A. Khomutov (North Caucasus Military District), Colonel I. Grachev, retired, (Moscow Oblast), and other readers draw attention to one further facet in work to establish statutory order: the commander's ability to deal with disciplinary practice....

[Yermin] Yes, this is an important question. The indifferent attitude of some commanders to the way in which subordinates are fulfilling the requirements of the general troop statutes and their service duties frequently becomes the reason for their deviation from an active stance in service and in the life of the military collective. The commander must notice everything in his subordinates—zeal and a negligent attitude toward the fulfillment of their duties, conscientiousness and dishonorableness.... He must notice it and assess it accordingly. That is one of the basic principles of the educational work of commanders (or chiefs) at all levels. But some of them try to conceal a particular occurrence or particular misdemeanor by their subordinates. Yet, as is well known, concealment and nonpunishment have never led to anything good.

What is the reason for this attitude? I believe that it is fear of being criticized for punishing subordinates. Yet it is not the number of violations revealed which should determine the effectiveness of the commanders' activity but the real state of affairs in the subunit or unit or on the ship and the commanders' ability to fulfill the combat task set them.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Among the package of problems connected with establishing statutory order, our readers include the improvement of the culture and education of servicemen. Captain A. Zoblin, retired, from Tyumen, Captain A. Nikitin (Carpathian Military District), and Privates A. Golubev and M. Titov (Moscow Military District) write that a disrespectful attitude toward a comrade, commander, or subordinate is evidence of the absence of proper culture in a serviceman.

[Yermin] Our general troop statutes have incorporated the best traditions of the people and pieces of general national culture and military etiquette. In educational work with servicemen, we must enhance the importance of these factors. Of course, a cultured man will not descend to rudeness, to insulting or humiliating a subordinate.... On the part of the ideological apparatus of units and the party and Komsomol organizations, I should like to see more activeness aimed at instilling in the personnel our values in culture and conduct and highly moral statutory relations between servicemen.

We often overlook the educational potential of the Army and Navy public. Yet practice shows that this public has enormous strength to influence the individual. For instance, do those who could have prevented a violation but failed to do so often report to the collective? Not often. Yet a frank and honest word from a comrade and the collective opinion not only influence a specific person but also form an atmosphere of mutual exactingness in the collective.

The problem of the fundamental consolidation of military discipline remains highly topical. Its practical solution will largely depend on how, under the conditions of restructuring, we succeed in improving the practical introduction of the statutes' requirements. That is the basis on which the combat readiness of the troops and naval forces rests and on which the entire tenor of military service is built.

General Staff Officer on Impact of New Thinking
18120070 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 8
Feb 88, pp 12-13

[Interview with Colonel General Vladimir Lobov, first deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, by unidentified NEW TIMES reporter under heading "The Armed Forces"; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] The Red Army was founded 70 years ago. The victory of the Great Patriotic War and the routing of fascism is a major landmark in its history. But some people in the West seem to forget this, turning the Red Army into a bogeyman. Are there any grounds for their fear?

[Lobov] The myth about the aggressiveness of the Red Army is as old as the Red Army itself. When 14 states moved their troops from all sides against Soviet Russia, Western propaganda began to disseminate the lie about an "invasion by the Bolshevik hordes." Since then it has constantly intimidated people with the "Red threat." The more vigorous the fight for peace and the more peace initiatives the Soviet Union advances, the more subtle are the calumnies about the aggressiveness of the Soviet Army.

Now that the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is a real possibility, the opponents of disarmament have again turned to the subject of the

USSR's "superiority" in conventional weapons, tanks in particular. Moreover, our tanks are said to have fantastic performance, for instance, the ability to reach the English Channel in a matter of hours. According to Western news reports, Britain has started forming anti-tank brigades to repel a Soviet tank attack in Europe.

The "Soviet threat" is a fabrication of the military-industrial complex of the West. It is actively used to influence the population and exert pressure on governments and public opinion with the aim of maintaining arms production as a source of profits.

The real, and very dangerous, threat to peace comes from the military-industrial complex, which has a very damaging effect on the entire system of international relations.

[Reporter] Defence of their country and the routing of aggression have traditionally been the chief tasks of the Armed Forces. In our time there can be no winner in a war. How is this concept treated by the Soviet Army? Have the goals and tasks of the Army changed in a society which sees the prevention of war as its most important objective?

[Lobov] The first decree of the Soviet Government was the Decree on Peace. The defence of our country has traditionally been considered the paramount task of the state and its Armed Forces.

The Programme of the CPSU and the documents of the 27th Party Congress point out that there will be no winners or losers in a global armed conflict. The task of averting war becomes particularly imperative in such circumstances. This makes it essential to raise the level of discipline and responsibility among servicemen, who must maintain a high degree of vigilance and improve their combat skill and preparedness. Defence of our country is a multifaceted concept. Who will gain the upper hand—the forces of peace or the forces of war? This depends on the contribution the Soviet Army makes to the cause of preventing war.

So, there can be winners, though not in nuclear war but in the struggle to avert it. The Soviet Armed Forces today defend both their own homeland and world peace.

[Reporter] There are two military blocs in Europe—the Organisation of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO. Both blocs claim that their doctrines have a defensive character. But military confrontation is not over. In what way can the two blocs prove the sincerity of their intentions?

[Lobov] Let me say first of all that the doctrinal principles of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO are not the same, and that this explains the continued military confrontation. The chief objective of the Warsaw Treaty's military doctrine is prevention of war, while NATO's military doctrine contains aggressive provisions aimed at destroying socialism as a social and political system.

"Socialism resolutely rejects war as a means of settling political and economic contradictions and ideological disputes between states," the 27th Congress of the CPSU pointed out. This determines the Soviet Union's fundamental policy of strengthening international security and peace by carrying out a complex of measures and programmes for broader international cooperation in the field of disarmament.

NATO regards war and combat operations not as an inadmissible form of interstate relations, but as a practical instrument for settling disputes and problems in its favour. This explains why NATO recognizes the U.S. concept of conflicts of high, medium, and low intensity. To a certain extent, this concept found expression in the armed conflict unleashed by Britain against Argentina over the Falkland Islands in 1982, in the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983, the U.S. air attack on Libya, the armed intervention of France in the affairs of Chad, and other actions.

[Reporter] Do you see any possibility of cooperation with NATO in building a complex of confidence-building measures?

[Lobov] Mikhail Gorbachev pointed to the possibility of cooperation with NATO in the provision of confidence-building measures: "We should lay our cards on the table, exchange all the data, evaluate them, clarify the asymmetry in armaments and troops, and start tackling the problems. Such is our approach."

The members of both alliances have declared that in their international relations they strictly observe the principles laid down in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. Under the Stockholm agreements, they already practise such confidence-building measures as notification of military exercises and the invitation of observers to monitor them.

The Soviet Union and other Warsaw Treaty states have called on NATO countries to reduce the arms and troop concentration of their contact line to a minimum agreed level, remove the most dangerous offensive weapons from this zone, set up a nuclear-free corridor along the contact line of the two blocs, and create in Europe zones free of nuclear and chemical weapons and with a lower concentration of armaments, and zones of enhanced confidence. All this is possible to achieve by mutual agreement and effort.

[Reporter] Democratization is perhaps the most important process now taking place in our country. It has spread to the Army too. But what does democratization mean in the Army?

[Lobov] All the processes taking place in socialist society find their reflection in the Armed Forces as well. *Perestroyka* in the Army means a cardinal readjustment of

mechanisms which have inhibited progress, the elimination of stagnant phenomena, and constructive, productive activity to improve the state of affairs in every field.

The whole complex of social relations is to be found in the Army, which fully reflects the democratic character of our social system. Far from contradicting the service's regulations, democratism emphasizes the socialist nature of our Armed Forces. Of course, the process of democratization in the Army and Navy has its specific features, because one-man command, discipline and the execution of orders have to be combined with broad participation by party and Young Communist League branches and all personnel in all affairs of military units.

The basic idea of democratization is that servicemen should be trusted more and display greater initiative and independence in their activity. The responsibility for the job entrusted to servicemen is being raised too. A creative approach by servicemen to their duties, and boldness in the tackling of complex problems help in the end considerably to enhance their self-awareness.

[Reporter] The new political thinking is clearly reflected in the foreign policy of our country. In what way has the new thinking influenced Soviet military doctrine?

[Lobov] One of the basic realities of the present-day world is that there is no acceptable alternative to peaceful coexistence between countries with opposed sociopolitical systems. The new thinking engendered by the modern world persistently calls for an end to the arms race and a search for ways of disarmament. These principles have found their reflection in Soviet military doctrine, which represents a system of basic views on the prevention of war and armed forces development.

Soviet military doctrine has a defensive character, with defense regarded as the principal form of military operation in repelling aggression. Proceeding from this, the Soviet Union is building up its Armed Forces on the principle of adequate defence.

Such an important doctrinal provision as renunciation of the first use of nuclear weapons also accords with the new thinking. In this lies the fundamental distinction between Soviet military doctrine and NATO's doctrine, which provides for the first use of nuclear weapons under certain circumstances.

[Reporter] We often speak of education through historical example. How is such education conducted in the Army?

[Lobov] The inculcation of a cautious attitude to the past and to tradition and continuity in our historical development should occupy a special place in the training of future defenders of our country. Young people joining the Army must clearly realize what they have been called upon to defend.

Our patriotism is inseparable from our history. The sources of one's love for one's country may differ, but the main thing here is unquestionably a knowledge of its history.

We have always drawn our strength from history. This was particularly evident in the years of trial that befell the Soviet people. This continuity was strikingly revealed during the Great Patriotic War. It is no accident that the orders of Alexander Nevsky, Bogdan Khmelnitsky, Suvorov, Kutuzov, Ushakov and Nakhimov were instituted in those stern years.

Education through historical example and the heroic past, through revolutionary and combat traditions, should determine our whole approach in training the present generation of defenders of our country.